

* FOREWORD

est cricket has no world championship and only in the one-day variety is there a tournament to measure the best in the game. It makes the World Cup the final examination of greatness.

Expectedly there is an incredible air of excitement in India, for there is an unrivalled passion for the game here. Someone told me that the viewership for this World Cup in India could be 200 million people. Understandably channels like ESPN, Star Sports and Doordarshan vie to telecast matches. And the stakes are high. The television rights for this World Cup will fetch close to \$45 million.



Eager to tap into this market are the corporate houses. They see cricket as India's most successful brand and close to Rs 250 crore is being spent on World Cup-related activities. In addition a considerable portion of funding for this World Cup, though held in England, is arriving from India. Commercially, we still drive the game.

Much, of course, is expected from the Indian team. Part of it because 16 years ago we proved that we could take on the best in the world. That I was captain of that 1983 team is a matter of great pride to me. After my retirement I decided to spend time with my family. Yet my heart has always belonged to the game and when INDIA TODAY asked me to edit its Philips World Cup '99 Collector's Edition I was more than eager.

This edition has something for everyone, the young cricket lover and the connoisseur. There is Michael Holding on the world's best bowlers and Mark Nicholas on the world's finest batsmen. There is Tony Greig explaining the growing role of television and Ajay Jadeja revealing the brilliance of Jonty Rhodes. There is Mike Brearley writing on captaincy and Bob Woolmer on technology. There are team profiles, records and much much more.

I could not have completed this edition without the support of the INDIA TODAY team, specifically Senior Art Director Ashutosh Sapru, Deputy Copy Editor V.K. Santosh Kumar, Senior Operator Kamal Kumar Goel and Associate Editor Rohit Brijnath.

For all of us this has been a labour of love. We hope you enjoy reading it.



La-1 Du

(Kapil Dev)

Conten



CAN WE WIN THE CUP?

The Indian team has the talent and experience to win. But the players will have to believe in themselves to rise up to a nation's expectations.

.....BY KAPIL DEV

SIX BEST BOWLERS IN THE WORLD

Field restrictions and aerial shots have made one-day cricket a batsman's game. Yet a set of brilliant quick and slow bowlers are proving that the game is not totally one-sided.

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From the stump-cam to the run-out cameras, television technology has not just made viewing more fun, it has also influenced the game.

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In an attempt to destroy a bowler's length and line, top batsmen around the world have created some stunning strokes that have become their signature.

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Can we win the Can IIP?

AIHAR

BY KAPIL DEV

n England the first half of the summer is always more difficult to play in. I have seen even mediocre bowlers come out looking formidable. The wickets there are soft and covered with grass because of the excessive moisture from the winter. This moisture remains till July when summer actually sets in. In these heavy, overcast conditions bowlers get a great deal of movement but not much pace. Ninety-five per cent of all matches in the first half of the English summer are disrupted by rain. So then, do we have the required ammunition? Yes, I think we do.

My firm belief is that the Indian batsmen have the finest technique in the world. Sachin is solid and dependable, Saurav's movements flow, Dravid has sound technique and is brimming with confidence, Azhar's experience is unparalleled. In fact, an Azhar in form can tear apart the finest bowling attack. Then we have a dependable middle order in



The captain holds the key. Even if one person does not cooperate fully India is in trouble.



Jadeja, Khurasia and Robin. I know ultimately bowlers win matches for their team, but only if their batsmen have given them a defendable total. Our boys will have to work on taking quick singles to ensure that our bowlers get a good enough total to fight for. I cannot say much about Ramesh since this is going to be his first tour. One hopes he performs as expected.

The bowlers are finely gifted too. Srinath is quick. He would be a killer in England. Prasad seems to be able to move the ball at will. His ability to bowl the slower one at any given time is going to prove most advantageous. Agarkar, I feel, is the most talented among all and to cap it can get the desired runs too. Our weaknesses are fielding and the inability to take quick singles. South Africa and Zimbabwe are both masters at these. That is where their strength lies. I know we cannot slide and dive like the westerners. Our grounds do not permit it. If our boys tried to slide on Indian grounds, quite a few would end up in hospital with severe injuries!



Don't expect
Sachin to win
every game
for you. That
will only put
unnecessary
pressure on
our best
player.

SACHINSPEAK

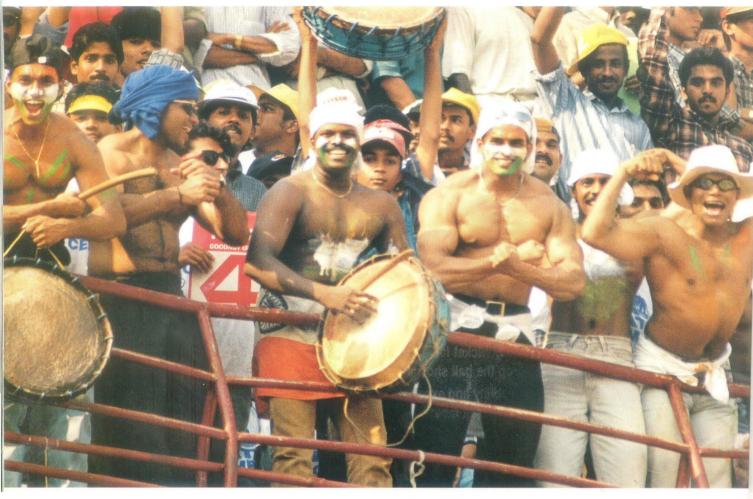
Concentration: It's self-pride that makes me concentrate. I wouldn't want to make a fool of myself in front of people.

Batting rhythm: I just feel I should play my shots. Even if I have scored 15 runs in that over, if I feel I can hit another two balls, I go for it.

When things go wrong: It's only mental. You feel your body is not cooperating but it's just because your mind is not functioning in the right direction.

Photographs by PRADEEP MANDHANI

MEN WHO COUNT. IF THE EXPERIENCED AZHARUDDIN AND THE BRILLIANT SACHIN JOIN HANDS, INDIA BROOKS NO OPPOSITION.



THE EXPECTATIONS ARE HIGH. CRICKET IS A PASSION IN INDIA AND THE GAME'S TRUE FOLLOWERS BELIEVE THE NATIONAL TEAM HAS THE EXPERIENCE, THE TECHNIQUE AND THE BRAINS TRUST TO EXCEL.

Theoretically
we are the
best team.
Our problem
is purely
psychological.



Throwing yourself at the ball is something one picks up in the initial stages of one's career, not when one is all set to play the World Cup. And if the beginning has been on the hard grounds like we have here, it is not possible, but improving our fielding definitely is. We have got to go for the quick singles while batting, and ensure that we stop those singles while fielding.

he advantage is that like all teams we will have three to four days conditioning and rest between every game. This should give us ample opportunity to set ourselves right for the next game. Each one in the side, and I mean not only the 11 but every player, the manager, the doctor, the physio, should have the same involvement to keep the spirit going. This time the structure of the game is different. One cannot afford to falter for even an instant. Which means that even if one person is withholding even one per cent of his effort, India is in trouble. The captain undoubtedly holds the key here. He will have to lead from the front, giving it all he's got. His belief and trust in his players will transmit to get the desired result.

Manager Anshuman Gaekwad too has got to fulfil his role to the hilt. His job must be to get the best out of everybody, rather than just trying to keep the boys happy. In addition to this, it is the first time that a team has a doctor who has 20 years experience of first-class cricket. Ravinder Chadha's invaluable experience will surely be a great asset. I have always maintained that encouragement is very healthy to keep the morale up. But encouragement where a player is visibly giving his 100 per

What COACH WANTS India's COACH WANTS



BY ANSHUMAN GAEKWAD

I think our bowlers are doing a fine job. And the fielding has improved too. But the responsibility in England will rest mainly with the batsmen. It will not be easy to get runs in England but I expect my batsmen to show the necessary application. What is important is that they reduce the number of dot balls.

Sachin Tendulkar: Must try and stay there for maximum overs. To stabilise the innings and collect runs. He will bowl, even in crucial overs. He is also a great motivator.

Saurav Ganguly: Has to build partnerships with Sachin. Knows short-pitched deliveries will be aimed at him. He seams the ball both ways, so definitely will bowl.

Rahul Dravid: Key factor, for if early wicket falls, he has to consolidate. Once set he can rotate the strike. Needs to drop the ball short and find gaps.

Mohammed Azharuddin: Has the ability and experience, needs to take charge of the batting. Needs to lead from the <u>front. That means high scores consistently.</u>

Ajay Jadeja: Great running between wickets and skill in rotating strike, takes the pressure off. Gets overconfident sometimes. I want him to bowl more than he does.

Robin Singh: Must bat according to the situation. In the last 10 overs must be more opportunistic and get into his stride faster. Strong striker and runner between wickets.

Nayan Mongia: Best wicket-keeper around. Has to believe more in his batting. Has proven himself but needs to remember he is a batsman-wicket-keeper.

Anil Kumble: Wonderful taker of wickets, but much depends on the weather. If it's cold, fingers slip and it's hard to grip the ball. If the sun's out, will be lethal.

Javagal Srinath: Main bowler who's bowling well, and though better than before his no balls are a slight cause of worry. Must bowl flat out early. Will be used as a pinch-hitter.

Ajit Agarkar: Main wicket-taking bowler and breaker of partnerships. Economy is the problem. When he tries to bowl too fast, sometimes pitches it too short.

Venkatesh Prasad: Bowling the best. Dangerous now and will be more so in English conditions. Stops runs, takes wickets, just needs to replicate his present form.

Amay Khurasia: Young and talented shot-maker. Depends how he adapts in England. Doesn't put his front foot across in the nets, but does it often in matches.

Sadagoppan Ramesh: Reacts slowly early on, doesn't move feet enough, which he needs to correct fast. Otherwise quick bowlers will give him trouble. Very gifted.

Nikhil Chopra: A highly useful all-round player. Bowls a tidy line and length, which makes him miserly, is no slouch with the bat either.

Debashish Mohanty: The surprise weapon. Showed in Zimbabwe and Toronto that he can move the ball well. Bowls a consistent line and could be trouble in England.



SAURAV'S BATTING HAS FLOURISHED IN ENGLISH CONDITIONS. NOW ONLY IF HIS BOWLING WOULD CLICK FOR INDIA TOO.



To emerge on top we have to take quick singles while batting and stop those singles while fielding.





Discipline must triumph over the many distractions.

cent. If the team management senses any slackening or laziness on the part of any player, no effort should be spared in pulling him up. Any laxity will lead to indiscipline and ultimately defeat.

Before I move on, I must devote a few words to our maestro Sachin. Obviously he is an asset to any side and a boon for every captain. He can win a match single-handedly for his team. He not only can pile on the runs, his bowling is more than useful and his fielding worth a mention. But, in our excitement over this wizard, let's not lose an overall perspective. I appreciate it when Azhar says that

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, JADEJA GETS GOING WITH THE BAT. IT NOW SEEMS HE CAN BOWL WELL TOO.

Sachin is the best, but there are 10 other players in the side too. Sachin can win games for you, but if you expect him to win every game then who is going to bat at the other end, take catches and field. Be practical, you cannot make one Sachin do everything. Definitely, every team revolves around a few key players. They must be supported, but if they fail does the team fail? If there is too much dependence, the team will fail. That will be the downfall of the team as well as the player. He will succumb to pressure.

few words of caution from my observations. Our group has Zimbabwe, South Africa, Sri Lanka, England and Kenya. Apart from Kenya, I would say that it is anybody's game. Three have to qualify, so even one bad match could have one out of the tournament. My main piece of advice would be not to underestimate any team. I know what happened when we did that with Zimbabwe in '83. Even Kenya must be taken seriously. A freak loss to Kenya and the team would in all probability be on the flight home! It almost happened to the West Indies in 1996.

Every match must be taken as the most important. There is no room for complacency. Of course, our first match will be the most difficult. Not only will we be going into extreme conditions from the ones currently prevalent in India, but the venue for our match, Hove, is not the kindest. It is a very open place with strong winds blowing across at any given time. Not helpful to us at all. We play South Africa there. A remarkable team. I would think that they have an exceptionally strong bowling attack. Keeping this in mind the Indians must ensure that they do not lose any quick wickets especially in the beginning. They must not be in a tearing rush to pile on the runs indiscriminately. A couple of quick wickets and we're in trouble, but a good score will be very much to our advantage as I feel our bowlers can handle their batting.

With Sri Lanka, it would be the reverse. We should contain their batsmen. They have great hitters who can amass runs like there is no tomorrow. If they are kept in control, their bowling should not be such a problem to handle.

The dark horse is Zimbabwe. Never underestimate them. Their fielding is exceptional and they can save any number of runs. Their batting is very strong, no liberties should be taken with them especially on these two fronts.

The most peculiar and dangerous team of all is England. Peculiar because

1	P	AY	BR	SF	0 R	W			CU	P	99		
			BATT	ING					В	0 W	LING		
PLAYERS	M	R	Hs	Avg	100	50	Ct	Balls	R	W	Avg	Best	Econ
A. Agarkar	36	215	30	14.33	-	-	13	1901	1657	68	24.36	4-35	5.22
M. Azh uddin	315	8950	153*	37.60	7	56	148	552	479	12	39.91	3-19	5.20
N. Chopra	14	97	39	16.16	-	-	4	660	466	10	46.60	2-21	4.23
R. Dravid	80	2366	123*	34.79	3	16	36	108	92	1	92.00	1-21	5.11
8. Ganguly	99	3509	130*	40.80	6	25	28	1459	1165	32	36.40	5-16	4.79
A. Jadeja	164	4361	119	36.34	5	25	49	1222	1067	19	56.15	3-3	5.23
A. Khurasia	4	71	57	17.75	-	1	-	-	54	•	-	-	-
A. Kumble	167	540	24	10.18		-	64	9019	6166	224	27.52	6-12	4.10
D. Mohanty	20	9	4*	9.00	-	-	5	828	738	20	36.90	3-15	5.34
N. Mongia	132	1222	69	20.71	-	2	101	-	-	54	-	-	-
S. Ramesh	7	189	82	27.00	-	2		-	-	-	-	-	-
R. Singh	80	1340	100	27.34	1	5	16	2515	2015	46	43.80	5-22	4.80
J. Srinath	161	678	53	11.49	-	1	26	8405	6119	220	27.81	5-23	4.36
S. T'dulkar	211	7801	143	42.39	21	43	71	4461	3646	78	46.74	5-32	4.90
V. Prasad	111	143	19	5.95	-		29	5573	4362	134	32.55	4-17	4.69

Statistics till April 18, 1999. Mongia has 42 stumpings. Odds by bookmakers William Hill. Ceat rankings as on April 21, 1999.



they have no great batsmen or bowlers and yet as a unit they become a force to reckon with. The most dangerous because they have the advantage of being familiar with the conditions, and if they start to function as a unit, they could pocket any game.

his leaves us only with Kenya. I am afraid I don't know too much about them. They are babies in the field as of today, but I wouldn't underestimate them at any point. Their winning even one game would tilt all the odds. Theoretically, we are the best team in the World Cup. If you total the matches played by Kumble, Azhar, Jadeja, Sachin and others, you reach a mindboggling figure of over 1,500. Nobody can match this. So in experience we're tops, in technique we're perfect and we have a good think tank. So why are we so inconsistent? Our problem is purely psychological. I don't think there are enough people ready to take the pain that a championship team must endure; and as they say, no pain no gain. Players have to say to themselves, for this one month I am going to give 200 per cent to my team. This team must also be disciplined. There will be lots of distractions in England—the media scrutiny, for instance, will be much greater than in 1983.

All this team really needs to do is believe in itself. So come on boys, I know you can do it.

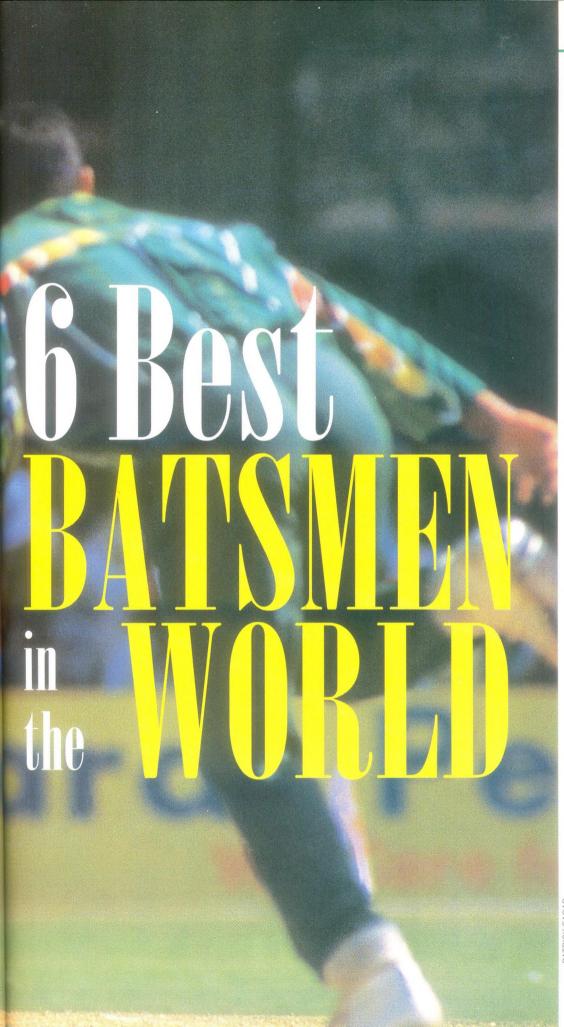


here are traditionalists who suspect that limited-overs cricket has diminished the art of batting by compromising on technique and allowing brawn as grand a platform as brain. If this is so it is certainly not evident in the very best batsmen—consider Sachin Tendulkar as the benchmark—who use the speed of their eye and footwork and sublime control of their blade to dominate bowling of any sort.

Certainly, lesser lights have sparkled in the shorter game—Sanath Jayasuriya for example—but the thrilling thing has been the improvement in their allround play because of the need for variation in their range of strokes and adventure in their approach. In England it is frequently pointed out that if Graeme Hick could bring the authority and confidence of his one-day play to the Test match arena he would make a stack more runs. Jayasuriya has done this and surprisingly has a better record in Tests than in one-day cricket during the past two years.

Sir Donald Bradman, the greatest of all batsmen, has said how much he would have enjoyed limited-overs cricket given the open spaces in the field and the opportunities for improvisation. The finest attacking batsmen in more recent memory, Vivian and Barry Richards, Greg Chappell and Graeme Pollock, were wonderful one-day players—each quite impossible to contain because their play had no limitations and their ability to surprise was anchored on the basic principles of a sound batting technique.

For this article I have chosen the six best limitedovers batsmen of the present day. I have selected them in batting order because each position has a



KAMAL JULKA



WITH 21 ONE-DAY
CENTURIES TENDULKAR
HAS EMPHASISED THAT AS
BATSMAN AND OPENER HE
IS WITHOUT PARALLEL.



Tendulkar
once treated
Glenn McGrath
as if he was a
weekend
amateur. He
is impossible
to resist if
in the mood.



specific role and requires different skills. The first choice to open the innings is easy. As easy as pick-JAYASURIYA'S ASSAULT ON FAST BOWLERS MAKES HIM AN OBVIOUS PICK AS OPENER. MARK WAUGH (FAR RIGHT), GIFTED ENOUGH TO ANCHOR OR EXPLODE, IS THE PERFECT CHOICE TO COME IN AT No.3.

ing Bradman would have been all those years ago. Tendulkar is the most complete batsman on the planet, impossible to resist if the mood takes him. India will forever reflect on his astonishing performances against Australia in Sharjah a year ago but my own most cherished memory is of his assault on the Australians in Mumbai during the last World Cup. Chasing a demanding total, Tendulkar was undaunted by the expectations of a huge,

> electrified crowd and he launched into Glenn McGrath as if this tremendous fastbowler was a weekend amateur. Some strokes were orthodox and others were outrageously not so. Bowling of a perfectly acceptable length was sometimes pulled and other times driven off both front and backfoot. It was exhilarating

batting by a modern master on behalf of his mighty nation.

he list to open with Tendulkar is alive with left-handed gems. Jayasuriya, of course; Saeed Anwar, Pakistan's breath-taking attacker; Nick Knight, who tore into Ambrose and Walsh in Barbados last year; and Adam Gilchrist, whose thrilling performances in the recent World Series in Australia will have sent World Cup coaches back to their blackboards.

I have gone for Jayasuriya because he created the art form of the carefree charge at the new ball. Others such as Mark Greatbatch and Ian Botham during the 1992 World Cup in Australia went in early to attack but Jayasuriya turned the 1996 tournament on its head with his seat-of-the-pants style. I don't buy the idea that he can only play in this way in the subcontinent—

we are yet to find out whether Gilchrist can only bat in his rampaging way on the hard pitches in Australia. Jayasuriya will shock bowlers again even if they now have something up their sleeve in return.

Mark Waugh, the most measured



Photographs by KAMAL JULKA

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* WITH THREE SUCCESSIVE TEST CENTURIES AGAINST THE AUSTRALIANS, THE RESURGENT BRIAN LARA HAS EMPHASISED HE IS STILL ONE OF CRICKET'S MOST SEDUCTIVE TALENTS.

limited-overs batsman in the world, is at No. 3. He might have been picked to open given his versatility, for he can anchor as easily as he can explode. No stroke is beyond him, no situation too taxing, no partner too dominant for his own game to thrive. Best of all, he is exquisite to watch with so much time to play, no slogs to speak of and just a delicious mix of touch and timing.

At No.4? There is no doubt. It is the world's most talked about cricketer, the natural

BEST OF THE BEST

Mark Nicholas rates the world's

finest batsmen on four criteria

Name	0	0		0	Total
TENDULKAR	10	7	10	9	36
JAYASURIYA	8	7	7	7	29
M. WAUGH	9	9	7	8	33
LARA	10	7	9	-	
DE SILVA	8	6	9	10	33
Bevan	7	10	6	9	32

- Range of strokeplay
- Speed between wickets
- O Big innings potential
- Ability under pressure

All marks are out of 10

genius oft flawed by his own self-destruct button but who is still one of cricket's two most seductive batting talents, the mercurial yet mesmeric Brian Lara. You might reasonably say that Lara in limbo—as he was until his stupendous recent series against Australia—is not worth a place among the immediate finery of the one-day game. Poppycock. Ask the bowlers and they would tell you that given the chance to avoid a confrontation with him they'd jump at it.

I well remember having a theory to restrain Lara by placing more fielders square of the wicket where he scores so freely, and pushing men back to allow him singles but deny him pleasure in scoring boundaries. His response was to drive gun-barrel straight down the ground, an uncharacteristic stroke, and to hit sixes over mid-wicket which was



De Silva is so fast on to the backfoot that there is no length with which to contain him.

DE SILVA'S

FLEXIBILITY IS VITAL AT NO.5, more usual. This is why Lara is so valuable. If his mind is set he can do anything to anybody.

The myriad options for the final two batting places, led incidentally by Aravinda de Silva, the batsman king of the last World Cup, are fantastic. Hansie Cronje, that thorough tactician from South Africa, and his even more talented sidekick Jacques Kallis. The rock-hard Steve Waugh, the well-respected Graeme Hick, the immensely-strong Inzamam-ul-Haq, the irresistible Mohammed Azharuddin and the imaginative and variously gifted Carl Hooper. Not to mention Ricky Ponting, Jonty Rhodes, Graham Thorpe or cool-as-you-like Arjuna Ranatunga.

emembering that only batting skills were the brief for this selection and that the fifth position in the order must be occupied by a flexible player capable of adapting quickly

to a crisis if early wickets have been lost or to freefall batting if a big total is on hand, de Silva is the clear first choice. He is one of those unique batsmen who are so fast on to the backfoot that there appears no obvious length with which to contain them. What's more he revels in the severest examinations—think of the semi-final and final in Calcutta and Lahore three and a bit

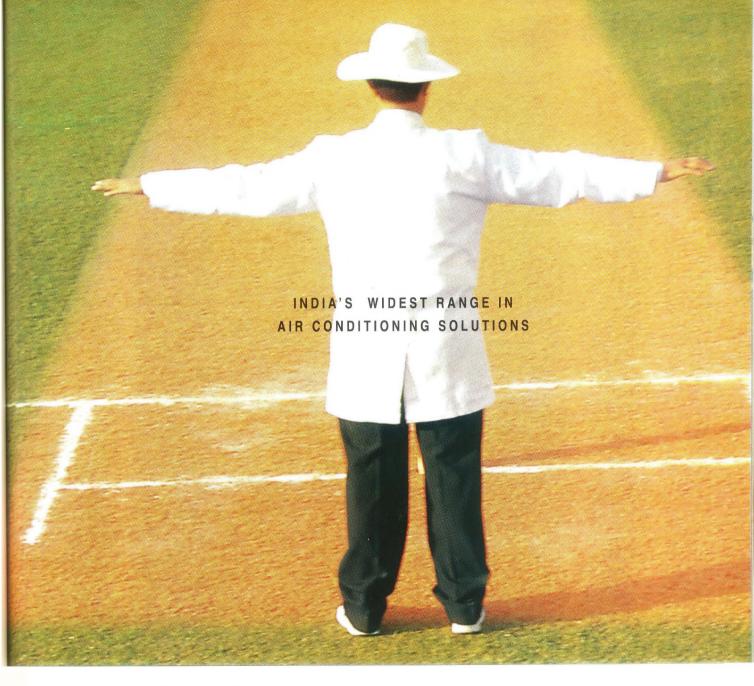
years ago-and has scored as heavily in England as he has done in the subcontinent.

> Batting at six in a one-day team is an art in itself, particularly in a run chase where temperament, a wide range of unorthodox strokes and speed between the wickets are essential. One of the front five may be set and going well and therefore needs to be given plenty of the strike. Against that the tail may be exposed and need protection so the strike has to be stolen. No one plays this part better than Michael Bevan, the man with the highest average in the international one-day game. Averages are not everything—indeed often they mean nothing—but Bevan's remarkable skill to guide and to steer and to see an innings through is well

Incidentally the hardest cricketers to ignore have been Hooper and Anwar because they are capable of such special, exhilarating batting. During the World Cup keep your eye out also for Gilchrist, whose timing is something to behold, and for Nathan Astle, whose audacity gives New Zealand a spark they often otherwise lack. It is a measure of the stunning talent on show that these players have been left on the sideline.

WHILE THE CALM OF BEVAN (ABOVE) IS A MUST AT NO. 6. reflected by his outstanding figures. a writer and commentator.





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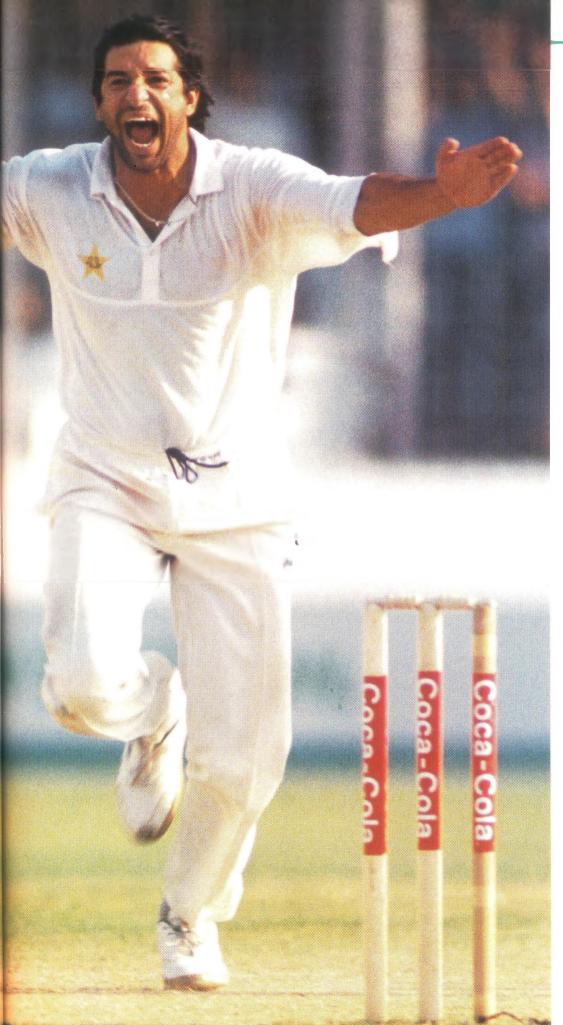
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BOP BOWLERS THE STORY OF THE S

he first ever World Cup, held in England in 1975, was won by the West Indies. Interestingly the very same squad (barring one member who retired and a few additions because a Test series requires more players) travelled to Australia for a Test series. As the new millennium dawns the cricketing world has been radically altered. Countries now pick different teams for Test and one-day cricket. To facilitate this the entire structure of overseas tours has been transformed with the Test matches completed before the one-dayers begin. It is the age of specialisation as teams have become a lot more positive in the early part of the innings and have substituted the regular opener with a more aggressive one.

What happened, of course, was that this change of batting attitude had an immediate effect on bowling. No longer could bowlers

By Michael Holding



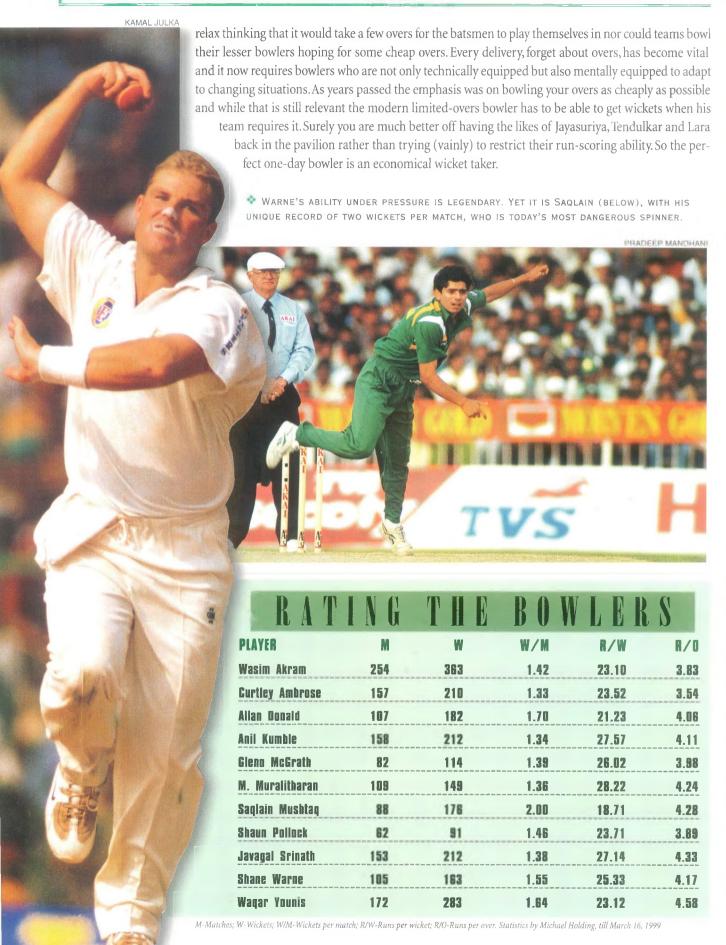
A full-length yorker in the end overs is a great tactic. Few do this better than **Wasim Akram.**



Photographs by PRADEEP MANDHANI



WITH TWO HAT-TRICKS IN RECENT MATCHES, AKRAM WILL BE DEADLY IN ENGLAND WHERE THE BALL MOVES IN THE AIR.





In the modern game an economy rate of about four runs an over is considered the benchmark. This rate has been achieved by quite a few bowlers who have played at least 60 one-dayers. These include fast bowlers Curtley Ambrose, Allan Donald, Glenn McGrath, Shaun Pollock, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Javagal Srinath and spinners Saqlain Mushtaq, Muthiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne and Anil Kumble. The most economical is Ambrose with 3.54 runs per over and the most expensive is Waqar Younis, he of the toe-crushing yorker, with 4.58 runs per over.

To whittle down such a big group, another important statistic—wicket-taking ability—has to be looked at. Here the picture changes somewhat with Saqlain going to the top of the tree. He has taken an incredible two wickets per game with his closest pursuer being Donald with 1.7 wickets per game. At the bottom of the tree is Ambrose averaging only 1.33 wickets per game.

The final statistic to be assessed is the cost of those wickets—that is runs conceded per wicket taken. Saqlain again tops the list. He is the only bowler who has conceded less than 20 runs per wicket. He averages 18.71 followed by Donald with 21.23. This time Muralitharan is at the foot of the list with 28.22, giving away almost 10 runs

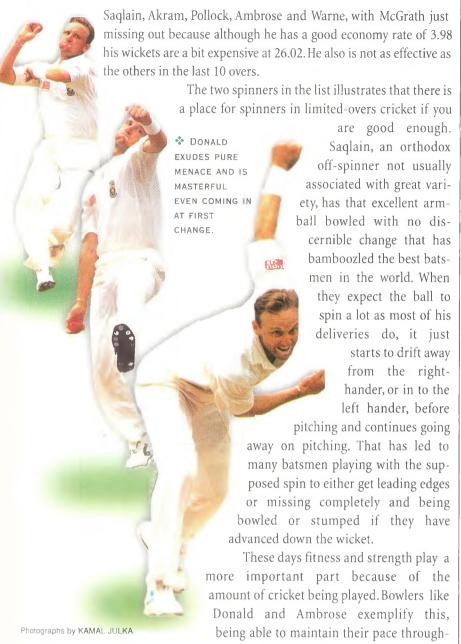
per wicket more than Saqlain. The only other consideration could be the stage of the game when the bowlers are used. Sadly those statistics are not usually recorded.

bviously, when assessing sportsmen, statistics alone cannot tell the full story and some amount of subjectivity is necessary. Little subtleties can enhance or detract from a bowler's rating and this writer's viewing of all of the above adds a few dimensions to the numbers. For instance the mere fact that South Africa prefer not to use Donald with the new ball would certainly subtract a point or two from his rating as all the other quickies bowl both with the old and the new ball quite effectively. Younis is possibly the only other exception. Of the spinners I think it is fair to say that they have all bowled at various stages in one-dayers with equal effect. Rarely are they asked to bowl with the new ball but sometimes they are brought in early—to try and stem the flow of runs when teams get off to a flyer—or asked to bowl at the death.

My top six limited-overs bowlers, taking all the above into consideration, would be: Donald,

POLLOCK (ABOVE) AND AMBROSE'S VIRTUES DO NOT JUST INCLUDE TAKING WICKETS AND INTIMIDATING BATSMEN; BOTH FAST BOWLERS ARE EXTREMELY MISERLY TOO GIVING AWAY LESS THAN FOUR RUNS AN OVER.





out their spells. Maintaining pace is never usually too difficult in limited-overs matches as the requirement is only for 10 overs, but maintaining pace along with excellent control is the key. Donald, and particularly Ambrose at 35 now, are extremely accurate. Ambrose's age surprises people but he started playing cricket very late—in fact he had only one first-class season before getting into the Test team in 1988.

In the later stages of most games the objective is to bowl a full length, yorkers if possible, and as straight as possible. So if batsmen miss they're gone. Few do this better than Akram. He is strong, with powerful shoulders, and his fast, swinging yorkers tough to score off. Miss and you'll hear that deadly rattle.

Playing conditions and countries seem not to matter to these gentlemen either, hence I expect excellent returns for all at the 1999 World Cup.

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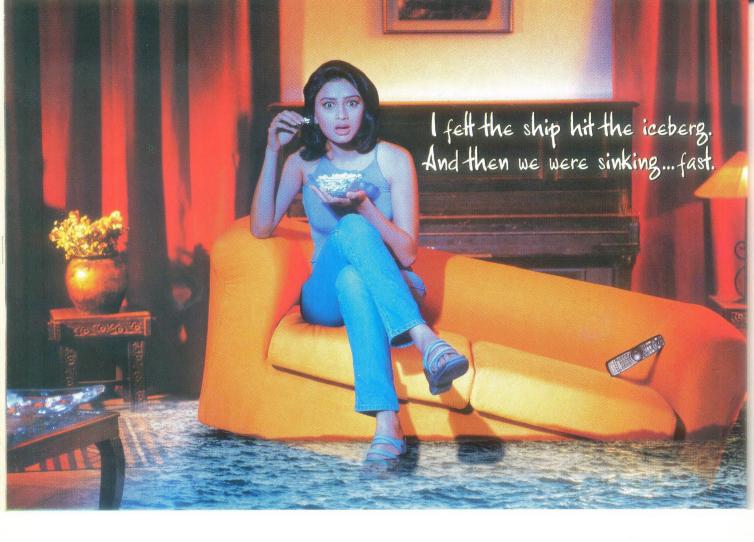






CIENCE AT WORK FOR DERC

Michael Holding, the great West Indian fast bowler, is a commentator.



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Let's make things better

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By Harsha Bhogle

ixteen years ago, the World Cup was as English as correct grammar and bland food. Then, good heavens, it moved out of Lord's where the air still carries the fragrance of W.G. Grace's cologne. It travelled, can you believe it, to the magical Orient, to the land of frangipani and vindaloo, those lovely Indian-sounding words that only the English understand!

It saw new landscapes and experienced new attitudes. Now it returns to its original home and like the English travellers of the past it brings with it a whiff of the lands it embraced on the way. That is why this will be a fascinating World Cup; a smorgasbord of cricketing cultures. The dashing Orientals on dainty feet, the strapping Aussies and robust Englishmen; and those intense South Africans to whom

* RANATUNGA IS AN ELEGANT BATSMAN BUT NOT AN AGILE FIELDER. HE EXEMPLIFIES THE FEUDAL PACE OF THE GAME IN THE ORIENT.



cricket is neither art nor profession, just a battle to be won. A year or so ago Bob Simpson was fascinated by this cultural chasm. In the day, he was match-referee as India played Sri Lanka; early morning he saw Australia play South Africa on television. It's amazing, he told me. The rules are the same but the game is completely different.

India versus Sri Lanka was played at a feudal pace. This was the gentlemen's game complete with wristy, aesthetic shots. But gentlemen don't scramble in the dust to save a lowly single. In Australia, it was the equivalent of serve-and-volley tennis. Third man went round the bend like he was doing the 200 m and dived for the ball like he was going for the opposition winger's ankle.

This is the East versus West of world cricket; a passionate, religious fervour versus a disciplined, organised sport. In Australia, Shane Warne can wait in a queue for a cab and carry on unmolested. In India, forget waiting, when Ajay Jadeja took a taxi in Mumbai recently, the driver wouldn't hear of being paid. Not surprisingly, the East creates cult figures, and doesn't seem to mind too much if the team fails as long as the deity performs. And individuals are rated by the records they set. So, when



The East
creates cult
figures and
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if the team
fails as long as
they perform.





Sanath Jayasuriya was out for 340, it led to national mourning, for the objective was not to win but to have their man atop the world. A year later, Mark Taylor declared at 334 and became a hero for putting team before self. Taylor was amazed by the attention his innings got in India. He told me: "The most calls I got were from Indians urging me to go for the record. It staggered me, till I realised in the subcontinent

individual achievement sometimes counts far more than the team."

But there is talent in the East; talent like the West would rarely see. It grows wild and unfettered and it carries a touch of the extravagant to it. And so Jayasuriya sallies forth hitting the ball on the rise over point, Mohammed Azharuddin twirls his bat like it were a wand. In the Orient, playing cricket is not a profession; it is a blessing from the gods.

Cricket doesn't quite have the same aura, the same dexterity in the West. Players are born with power and technique is drilled into them. Power can be

* WESTERNERS LIKE
CRONJE ARE DISCIPLINED
AND TRAIN HARD. FOR
THEM CRICKET IS NO? AN
ART OR PROFESSION BUT
A BATTLE TO BE WON.

a qualification; it can also be a limitation.
Former India player M.V. Narasimha Rao, batting coach of the Irish team, was exasperated when his batsmen couldn't place the ball for singles against spinners. Rotating his wrists like young Indian batsmen do, he said, "I used to tell

erful wrists were locked, they couldn't produce the soft touch needed against spin." Like blades of grass on a manicured lawn, such cricketers appear cultured but devoid of identity. They seem automated like the industrial powers they are. If cricket is an exercise aimed at winning, that

them 'pick one to mid-wicket, one behind point and

you have four an over', until I realised that their pow-

is a huge strength. If it is a celebration of life, that is a huge drawback.

If Cullinan goes, Kallis comes in; if Hick goes, Hussain comes in. But if Anwar goes ... if Tendulkar goes ... That is why this is going to be a wonderful pageant. A tournament for the cricket lover and the social scientist. Over a long, cold tournament, on grassy pitches, the method of the West should triumph over the randomness of the East. But don't be too sure, for this is the reading of a westernised, analytical mind. And minds like those don't, or can't, make allowances for the flight of genius. Will man beat machine? What joy there is, even in contemplation!



Cricket lacks
dexterity
in the West.
The players
are cultured
but devoid
of identity.



Harsha Bhogle is a columnist and a commentator with ESPN.

Woolmer's Vision of CRICKET 2010

ONE BOUNCER PER OVER In the middle overs bowlers are allowed one bouncer per batsman per over.

On each ground the area where the boundary is longest will be marked out. If the ball goes over that boundary it's

worth 8 runs.

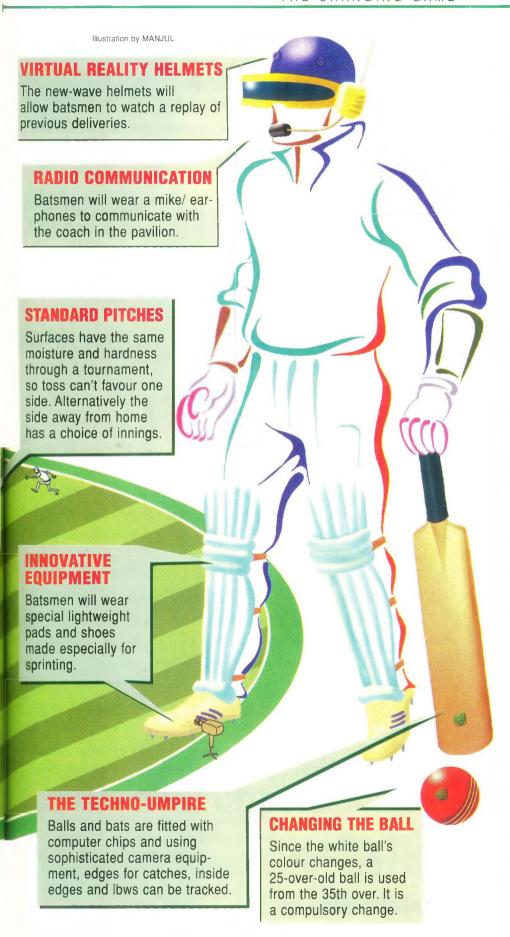
EXTRA RUNS

WARM-UP AREAS

In the pavilion itself, a net is provided for batsmen to warm up before going in.

CHECKING FOR LBWs

A shaded area is marked on either side of the stumps. When an lbw appeal is made, the computer will show whether the ball hit the batsman outside the stumps or not.



By Bob Woolmer

ricket has gone through a big learning curve. When there were no fielding restrictions four runs an over made a good total. Yet the close catching ring revolutionised the game. Now attacking batsmen score 100 runs in 15 overs. REVERSE SWIM The use of one ball also led to the use of reverse swing and the slog in the last 10 overs in certain conditions became a battle for survival. A method to counteract reverse swing had to be found. So the umpire had to be persuaded that the ball needed changing because the whiteness had worn off! So the ball got changed, reverse swing stopped and if it didn't swing normally batsmen were able to capitalise on the change.

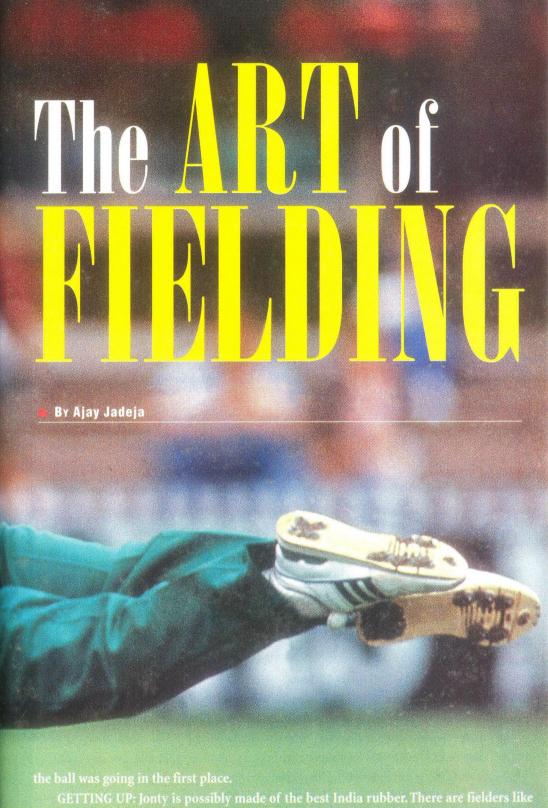
continued of the Kookaburra ball this cup will see the use of the Duke ball. It will make a major difference. The Duke ball is hand stitched and has a much prouder seam. It stays hard far longer and therefore the upper order may have to work harder for their runs. At the death the reverse swing will be about the same, instead of the ball going soft and being hard to hit. A strong tail will be able to score a lot more runs.

THE MIDDLE OVERS: Less positive commentators say the slog in the first 15 overs makes the middle overs boring. More fielding restrictions they say! I feel it is in the middle overs that the game is lost or won.

In conclusion I feel the future offers much. And for my view of what may happen look to the left.

Bob Woolmer is the coach of the South African cricket team.





KAMAL JULKA



* EARLIER IT WAS ENOUGH FOR A FIELDER TO BE SAFE. NOW HE HAS TO STOP EVERYTHING AND REDUCE SCORING OPPORTUNITIES.



You can't really make out on TV how good Jonty is. **Only batsmen** know what he is like.



er is looking to run a batsman out, Jonty is looking to run a batsman out while still sprawled on the ground after making a diving stop.

UNFAILING CATCHER: Drops fewer than other top fielders, but holds many which most won't even think of getting their hands to.



With fielders going for the half-chance, batsmen know

* FAST BOWLERS CAN NO LONGER RELAX ON THE FENCE. LIKE DOMINIC CORK THEY MUST GRAB THE HALF-CHANCE.

STRONG ARM: Has different throws depending on the situation. He can throw flat, straight at the stumps or on the bounce to the keeper. We don't know how his arm would work from the boundary as he never fields there. Yet from where he stands he gets the ball back in the shortest time possible.

field he was collecting balls outside his right foot by stretching, even when chasing at full speed. Normally a fielder goes around the ball and picks it in front of his left toe. Kalpage was effectively saving three steps. This was revolutionary and changed our approach to fielding.

Chris Harris: For sheer speed he is unmatched. Gets to the ball faster than any other player.

Mohammed Azharuddin: Can't beat his all-round fielding skills. Great speed, sound anticipation, and very safe hands. Captains looks for such fielders who can be placed anywhere.

Mark Taylor: Most players have a safe pair of hands, Taylor had a safe hand—he could catch effortlessly with either hand. Terrific slip fielder. Nothing went past him.

CHANGES IN ONE-DAY FIELDING: A few years ago the realisation dawned that fielding influences the outcome of a match. A run out makes the crucial difference between victory and defeat.

One-day cricket has seen two stages of fielding. In the past it was enough to be safe, not let the ball go, not drop a catch. The fielder was merely expected not to make a mistake when the ball went to him.

After the safe stage came today's aggressive phase. Now a fielder is expected not just to stop everything but actually reduce scoring opportunities. To do that he must run, sprint, dive, slide, whatever. This means, in practical terms, that a fielder runs across to the ball instead of the old method of running around it. Running across saves time which means runs saved and more chances of run outs. This is a major change because run outs are decided by inches and any innovation that gets a fielder quicker to the ball poses a great threat to batsmen. Often, despite this aggressive chasing, batsmen may still make two runs, but the important thing is the attitude of the fielder striving to make things difficult for the batting side. Because of this changed attitude more fielders dive these days, going for the half-chance. And due to this there is extra pressure on the batsmen because they know even a minor error, in shotmaking or calling for a run, could prove fatal.

are easy to anticipate and judge. When fielding square of the wicket the ball is seen very late and straight bat catches are no help.

▶ The throw depends on the situation but the flat, direct throw always has batsmen in trouble.

even a minor error could prove fatal.





How to TOP BATSMEN Tackle

Batsmen get the maximum runs through their favourite shots. At the World Cup captains will attempt to curb such shots. Here Jadeja explains how he would tackle four premier batsmen. He also marks out the important positions where he and two other fielders would be placed.

SACHIN TENDULKAR: At mid-off stay deep, on the line.



Move late because he can alter his shot to find the gap. Be prepared to move either left or right because he will not hit straight at you. He

hits very hard and can go effortlessly over the top. If that happens just watch the ball sail past. Unlikely he will tap the ball gently and take a single.

SANATH JAYASURIYA: He gives the ball a huge thump;



if provided with width he's big trouble. For him third man is almost square but Jayasuriya can smash a short ball so hard he clears

the fence many times with a square cut.

SAEED ANWAR: At point, slightly backward, stay deep, on



the 30-yard line. Playing square is his strength and again he is a master at placement. It is best to have extra protection

with a third man but he comes into play only if the ball beats me by a distance. If the ball is sliding off Saeed's bat nicely it's difficult getting there in time.

MARK WAUGH: He is not a great cutter, more skilled at



placing the ball softly off his bat and running a quick single. At point you must take a bigger start and move forward

if he is defending and not shaping up for a big strike.

Reaching the keeper on the bounce is helpful, and quicker, from the deep. More so if the ground is hard, but if soft the ball slows down and time is wasted. So go for the big throw.

- ▶ I look at the bowler as he prepares to run in because he might want to make a marginal fielding adjustment. But once he starts his run-up I look closely at the batsman and watch his bat.
- ► Keeping my eyes on the ball is obviously important but equally vital is ensuring that my hands remain soft. In the anxiety to collect the ball and get it back as quickly as possible this basic is often forgotten. But remember if the ball does not rest nicely in the hand you won't have anything to throw.
- ▶ I always tell myself to concentrate and stay in the game. But I know I have to focus only when the ball is played. Otherwise it is essential to relax a little, have a laugh and enjoy yourself.



Fielding now influences the outcome of a tight match.

Ajay Jadeja, one of India's finest fielders, spoke to Amrit Mathur.

The R

By Tony Greig

ay back then when (sports) television was in its adolescence, I remember huddling before a radio, listening to cricket come alive. It was a joy without parallel, for to listen to sport was to enter it's very soul. You'd hear John Arlott, Charles Fortune and Alan McGilveray and many others share with you a game of cricket, and you could close your eyes and create your own pictures. Because these images were so carefully constructed they became indelibly printed in the memory and were instantly transferred to action in the backyard.

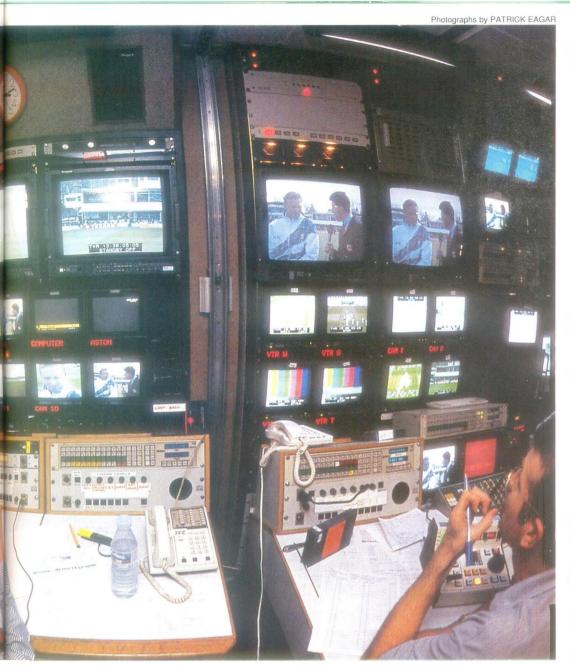
Then television arrived and while it was wonder-

ful to see the pictures, some of the romantic images of cricket disappeared because the television commentators of the day thought the pictures should do almost all the talking. Watching cricket was rather like watching a semi-silent movie. In the main this continued for years because it was the way of the BBC and they were considered the yardstick in those days.

Things changed dramatically in Australia in 1977 when Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket backed up by his extremely innovative television station Channel Nine rocked cricket's establishment. The target audience changed from the existing ageing and rather conservative customer to a healthy, vibrant broader group representing a more realistic cross-section of society.

The limited-overs game took on a more prominent role much to the disgust of many traditionalists and played a major part in the rollout of cricket's new era. The pace in the commentary box picked up as did the influence of the television directors and producers, most of whom knew little about cricket but plenty about what the mass market wanted. Advertising agencies got to work—a song was even written on Dennis Lillee— and the game's direction changed dramatically.

All this happened under the guidance of Kerry Packer and Channel Nine very soon took over from the BBC as the new benchmark for the televising of cricket the world over. Packer was a driven man and entranced by the game. Wherever he was in the world he was tuned in to cricket and had a direct line to the producer. He refused to accept anyone knocking the one-day game,





PRODUCERS VIEW
OVER 20 CAMERA
ANGLES, LIKE THE STUMP
CAM (ABOVE), BEFORE
DECIDING WHAT ANGLE IS
BEST FOR THE VIEWER.



Television
highlights
the players'
skills but it
also shows
their warts
close-up.



so much so that he found it necessary to dismiss Rod Marsh, who, as I understand it, had criticised the one-day game on one of Packer's radio stations.

The commentary box expectedly became an exciting place and in a way cricket's classroom. Producers, many of whom had never played, imposed themselves on commentators in an effort to explain some of the aspects of the game to the new-look audience. The kids who wanted to know exactly what a "no ball" is, which is the "on" side and where is "short leg" for example were drawing women into cricket conversation. It wasn't long before we were doing pitch reports and there is an interesting story behind this. We first tried a Pentrometer, an instrument which was supposed to measure the moisture in the pitch, but that didn't work. So I just stuck my key in and a tradition began. And I promise you, if you go to any Australian ground where kids are playing, and they're discussing the pitch, chances are you'll hear them say, "So what does the key say?"

Meanwhile the telestrator or video writer became part and parcel of any telecast worth its salt and the more recent developments in the superfast recall of replays are staggering. Digital



THANKS TO CLOSE-IN CAMERAS, DECISIONS CAN BE JUDGED BETTER. IT IS EASY TO ESTABLISH WHETHER THE BALL WENT OFF THE INSIDE EDGE.



The opening match at Lord's will be covered by 25 cameras including one on an airship.



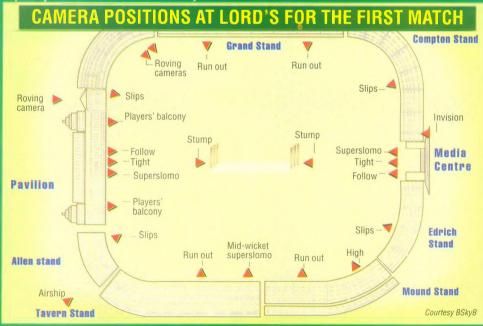
Covering the CUP

he telecast for the 1999 World Cup is a mammoth exercise, conducted jointly by BSkyB and BBC. The two channels will divide the matches almost equally. BSkyB has almost 300 people working on the World Cup. It will require five OB units and about 20 commentators. The entire coverage is made more complicated by the weather. Says BSkyB producer John Gayleard: "The logistics are immensely complicated. Since there are rain days for every game, this means getting transport and hotel accommodation for 300 people. It is like moving a small army."

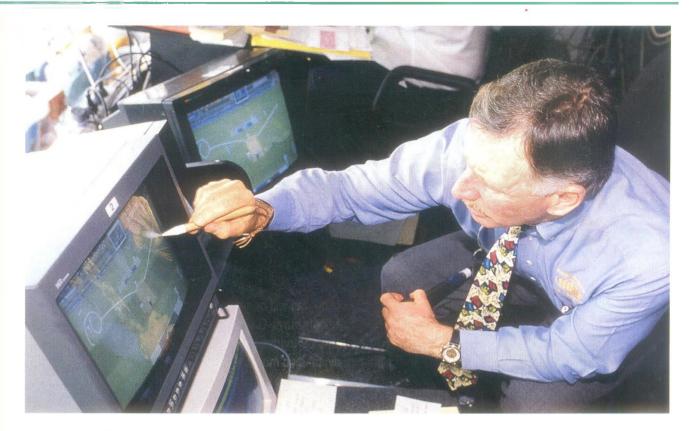
In the first game itself about 25 cameras will be used, with airships at some venues to provide an aerial view. More interestingly, says Gayleard, "There will be cameras in the players' viewing areas, to see reactions during the game." They will also include nine VTRS for replays and two EVS machines, digital disc machines that allow not just instant replays but can also recall a sequence of wickets fallen with lightning speed.

The list of commentators is as usual a roll call of cricketing greats. To name a few, David Gower, Bob Willis, Ian Botham, Michael Holding, Allan Border, Tony Greig, Sunil Gavaskar, Ian Chappell, Mike Procter, Martin Crowe, Paul Allott, Tony Cozier, David Hookes, Bill Lawry and Graham Fowler. In India, matches will be shown on ESPN/Star. Doordarshan has also got into the act. It will show all India's matches, the semi-finals and final live. Mark Mascarenhas, WorldTel boss, says Doordarshan will have its own commentary team comprising Ravi Shastri, Geoff Boycott, Imran Khan, Kirti Azad and a guest commentator from the country India would be playing. On other nights, WorldTel is organising a special one-hour Highlight Report, hosted by Shastri and Imran, that would air after the day's play.

—PARAN BALAKRISHNAN Grephiles by JAI



Follow: tracks the ball when hit; Tight: is focused down the wicket on the batsman; Invision: interview camera



super-slow motion cameras, first introduced by Trans World International in the West Indies to highlight and explain Shane Warne's "flipper" and worth about \$250,000 (Rs 1.05 crore) each, have been a great success and are a must these days. Stump-camera arrived and the explanations associated with a batsman's footwork are made so much better. Run outs are now a big issue and next season in Australia the Nine Network will be following the example of the South Africans and introducing four dedicated unmanned cameras to ensure the "TV" umpire gets it right.

* FROM MERE PICTURES, TV COVERAGE NOW HAS EXPERTS LIKE CHAPPELL INTERPRETING THE BALL'S FLIGHT ON THE SCREEN USING A TELESTRATOR.

ight cricket and, therefore, the white ball arrived and with it cricket experienced the advent of coloured clothes. I remember Asif Iqbal being hit while fielding at covers; he was unable to pick the ball because it got lost in the batsman's white clothing. Indeed, the entire format of the telecast was being redesigned. The BBC preferred to keep the viewer in one place, as if he were sitting in the stands. So they televised the game from one end. Channel Nine in contrast began covering it from behind the bowler's arm all the time. This was initially disorienting, but people soon figured out who was bowling from where. Then came onfield microphones and slips cameras, and in all this the cameramen were playing an enormous role. They travelled together, stayed at five-star hotels, and this sparked off a great camaraderie with the commentators and the crew.

So we've journeyed far, but there is some distance to be travelled. Many vexing issues remain. Television has been beneficial to players, for it has highlighted (perhaps even exaggerated on occasion) their skills and put their deeds on visual record. Yet if it has examined success minutely it has also charted failure. It exposes players, warts and all, and highlights their frailties in slow motion—I don't think I could have endured such scrutiny. It means commentators must be responsible, they must be honest but careful too.

Technically too the road ahead is littered with possibility. For all our camera angles, the run out remains a disputed affair, for you can't tell when the bails are broken. Maybe there should be a light in the bail, which switches on when it leaves the stump or a light in the stump that turns on when



To help judge run outs, bails should light up when dislodged.



Masters of WORDPLAY

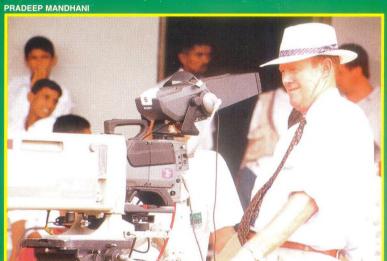
Bill Lawry: My favourite because I love his enthusiasm, it's infectious. He doesn't always get it right, nor does he have the greatest command of the English language, yet his love for the game pours through the microphone.

Michael Holding: He has a beautiful voice and his lovely West Indian accent has a wonderful flavour. When you hear this combination it stirs the emotions for the game. He's also very lateral in his thinking because unlike many of his peers he often exposes aspects of the action which elude many other observers.

Geoffrey Boycott: He always calls it as it is. Whatever he says comes straight from the heart. Unfortunately this means he is often dreadfully misread. Geoffrey, as usual, couldn't give a damn. He provokes debate in loungerooms all over the world. His dry Yorkshire expressions stimulate humour unwittingly. Needless to say he's technically sound when speaking on batting.

lan Chappell: Here is a man who studies cricket, and whose knowledge of the game runs far and deep. It is obvious in his commentary. If you say something to him on air, you can rest assured he will develop it further. And he's a veritable encyclopaedia of stories on old players.

Richie Benaud: I love his turn of phrase. He is a man who has mastered subtlety and understatement. He has been, and continues to be, an anchorman without peer. His skills are not limited to the microphone: he is a genius at pooling together commentators, an art in itself.



the bail is dislodged. Leg before decisions continue to niggle and here too television can play a pivotal role. What, of course, would be miraculous would be if we forged a system wherein the camera could track the ball in flight. A computer could then create a three-dimensional graphic that notes both the ball's height and direction, thereby deciding if a batsman is lbw or not.

also visualise a day when spectators will arrive at grounds and each seat, much like airplanes these days, will hold its own television set. Spectators will just plug in and choose their own camera angles, pull up their own statistics—interactive television is not that far away. For the moment maybe we'll just settle for a few more graphics. Much like that duck that begins its doleful walk once a batsman is out for zero, perhaps we'll have flying hands to show catches and smiling, happy stumps to highlight dismissals. These are just some possible innovations. Remember, it's the kids we're after. Because one day they'll grow up to become adults, and if we've taught them well, then they will teach their kids and the game will prosper. Ask Australia, it's happened down there.

* COMMENTATORS HAVE MANY TASKS FROM PITCH REPORTS TO INTERVIEWS AFTER THE TOSS, BUT LIKE GREIG (ABOVE) FEW TURN CAMERAMEN.



Tony Greig, former captain of England, is a commentator with Channel Nine.

Shots that Shake the WORLD

Illustrations by JAYANTO and NILANJAN

By Peter Roebuck

radually one-day cricket is developing a language of its own, a music of its own. Slowly the rebellious son is emerging from the shadow of its conservative father. It is a game of rudeness and opportunism, of sudden shifts to set beside slower manoeuvrings of the Test arena. It is a music hall beside an opera, a singsong against a solemn service.

It also has strokes of its own, mixtures of power and eye, and brings the crowd to its feet. These are not shots learnt on a grandfather's knees, rather they are torn from a comic strip and invented by necessity. Some of the top players around have created strokes that have become their signature. Here are some you will see at the World Cup:

the young genius from Mumbai, is a master whose bat is a barndoor in defence and a bludgeon in attack. Such is his range and power that he does not change his game much to meet the demands of one-day cricket. He merely puts his bat, the heaviest around, to even more vigorous use as he plays with the hot spirit of youth and the sense of pace and place more common among the aged. Only in one respect does he change his tempo in response to the requirements of the 50-over game. Whereas in Test crick-

Sachin hits
the ball early
and with a
straight bat.
The effect on
bowlers is
palpable.



Lehmann's
bulldozer
build doesn't
restrict him
from playing
the intricate
reverse sweep.

et he keeps the ball on the ground, here he will open his shoulders to drive hard, straight and high, sending the ball thundering over the umpire to the boundary. He hits the ball early and with a straight bat and the effect upon bowlers is palpable. They drop their length whereupon the batsman unleashes his destructive backfoot strokes. Whether or not he will risk his lofted drive on damp English pitches remains to be seen. But he seldom holds back.



REVERSE SWEEP: Many years ago Mushtaq Mohammed introduced a

shot of such impudence and risk that people thought he had taken leave of his senses. Bending on one knee in the ordinary manner he reversed his bat and hit across the body, sweeping or guiding the ball towards third man. For 10 years the stroke was regarded as a red herring, the sort of shot that made Anglo-Saxon bowlers complain, "He's playing like a veritable Hindoo, hasn't played a Christian shot in his life."

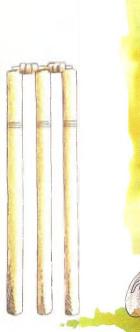
Eventually batsmen across the world began to copy the stroke. Slowly it crept into the 50-over game, even among the Australians who are usually conservative in these matters. Mike Gatting and Javed Miandad took

it up, though Gatting's untimely dismissal in the 1987 World Cup final was a setback. Nonetheless the more daring batsmen persevered and nowadays it is almost

respectable, like earrings on men.

Lehmann is a particularly canny practitioner of this curious stroke. Although built along the lines of a bull-dozer, he is a surprisingly subtle customer and scores as much with touches as blasts. He will use the stroke against the spinners. Probably, though, he will not attempt it against Allan Donald.

have long been part of the game as played in villages, maidans and among the disrespectful lower orders of the batting list. Proper batsmen, though, avoid the stroke because it means working across the line, hitting the ball in the air and often lifting their heads as if this secret of life can be found in the heavens above. These batsmen are taught the importance of keeping their eyes on the ball, moving their feet properly and hitting along the ground. Ordinarily an Afrikaner might be expected to be even more obedient of the old





Ranatunga

uses his bat

more like

a surgical

instrument

rules than the common man for they are a patriarchal and respecting tribe. Moreover Cronje is from Bloemfontein in the Afrikaner heartland, but he is a cricketer of his time and he has become the most dangerous leg-side hitter of them all these days.

Cronje plays the shot by putting his height to use. He places his leg so that he can hit the ball hard and straight, opening his stance so that the bat flows easily through. He plays the shot mostly against the spinners, Shane Warne in particular, and generally it brings a sixer.

MICHAEL BEVAYS FLICK TIROUGH MID-WICKET: No current batsman uses the blade as skillfully as Bevan, a stealthy left-hander who manages to remain calm when things are boiling and bursting all around. Bevan has a magnificent record in his cricket and must count among its greatest practitioners. Bevan's game is built around an ability to guide the ball into gaps. Most batsmen rely on violence. Bevan simply angles and varies the pace, most particularly he is adept at easing almost any ball into empty spaces on the leg side whereupon he scampers a second run, and the scoreboard keeps ticking over like a timebomb.

This flick to leg is his signature and his saviour. It is played with a straight bat and a last-minute turn of the wrists as the ball speeds away at an angle of his choosing. It is a stroke hard to contain. He scores as quickly as anyone and hardly seems to be taking a risk.

ARJUNA RANATUNGA'S DEFLECTION THROUGH SLIP:

Since one-day cricket emphasises the importance of saving runs rather than taking wickets, the slip cordon is usually left open, at any rate once the innings is under way. Ranatunga is a master field and off it. Not for him the sweet

manipulator on the field and off it. Not for him the sweet words of diplomacy. Instead he confronts opponents in an

attempt to show that Sri Lankans are no longer the charming pushovers of yesteryear. Unsurprisingly, he is not afraid to prickle his opponents.

At the crease he is a cunning fellow and vastly

experienced. He uses his bat more as a delicate, almost surgical instrument than as a weapon of destruction. His strength is the deftness with which he guides almost any ball through the slip area, waiting for it to arrive and then opening the face of the bat at the moment of impact so that the ball shoots away in some unpredictable direction. This infuriates the bowler and keeps the

score ticking along. Something about the way Ranatunga struts between the wickets also serves to annoy opponents whose length accordingly suffers. Ranatunga has the skill and temperament to score runs in any situation. Whether he still has the eye remains to be seen.

ROMESH KALLWITHARASA'S LOFT OVER COVER: These days most batsmen prefer to hit the ball to the leg side because the right hand is dominant besides which the fielders are usually located elsewhere. Barry Richards though used to step to the leg to stroke the ball to the off-side boundary. By moving away from the ball he could loosen his arms and prevent the bowler cramping him. Kaluwitharana follows that style. Although strong off the backfoot, he lacks the strength to blast boundaries and accordingly improvises. Once set he steps down the pitch, gives himself room and lifts the ball over midoff. He is an exciting rather than accomplished batsman and frequently loses his wicket in the early exchanges.

MARK WALGH'S GLIDE TO LEG: To score freely in these matches a batsman must be able to score runs off accurate deliveries. Mark Waugh has a quiver full of beautifully-timed strokes but his greatest strength is the way he glides straight deliveries through gaps in the leg-side field. He does this with the ease of a man putting on his hat.

Usually he keeps the ball on the ground and such is his timing that a boundary results. Only in haste will he lift the ball, giving the bowlers a chance but bringing the prospects of swift scoring. So effortlessly does Waugh play this shot that bowlers feel obliged to direct their attention wider of the wicket whereupon this elegant batsman plays his off-side stroke with impunity. Accordingly Waugh has become one of the finest players in this form of cricket.

the exhaustion and exhilaration of the game. He is an outgoing cricketer with a will to win hidden beneath a happy-go-lucky approach. At the crease he remains calm and often takes his team to victory. Like all top batsmen, Jadeja has a wide range of strokes but his particular fancy is the tickle to leg, a delicate stroke played at the last instant off almost any delivery. It is well chosen because the fielder at fine leg has been brought in close. It is a highly risky stroke even in experienced hands but if successfully executed it brings an otherwise elusive boundary. Jadeja has the audacity and eye to bring it off. Few others will attempt it.



Jadeja has

the audacity

to play a shot

others would

not dare to.

KAMAL JULKA



Aruna ball is MYSTYLE

I don't feel
any pressure.
It's a matter
of hitting in
the gaps and
not panicking.



By Michael Bevan

ricket is in a funny era. Test cricket is still looked on in the high circles as the only thing that counts. Commentators and officials grew up on it. But soon the game will be run by a generation raised on the one-day game and they will give it the respect it deserves. The skills are just as high. The pressures are just as great. They are different, that is all. The public can see it and soon the old fellows will see it as well. At present they can say, "He's only a one-day player." My approach is simple. It's something I've worked out over the years. I hit the ball into gaps and keep the score moving. This helps take the pressure off. Obviously it is important to be flexible. If the field is up then I will go over the top. If it is back then it's a matter of scoring lots of singles and twos. As a youngster I was a sprinter and that helps. Also I can play the ball softly into gaps, short of the fieldsmen, and get two runs. This works better on big grounds because the fieldsmen are far away. It's not so effective on the smaller grounds in England and the subcontinent. Smaller grounds suit the big hitters. They helped the Sri Lankans in the last World Cup.

I aim to end up with a run a ball. I pace myself for it. I tell myself to be there at the end. Sometimes it goes wrong but what's the use in slogging? You can't score any runs when you're out. I don't really feel the pressure in the middle. It depends how you look at it. To me it's a matter of hitting in the gaps and not panicking. I know I can score more twos than anyone else but I've got a couple of boundary shots in reserve if required. Otherwise I just go along. It's funny how the game can change if you keep your head. One-day batting has improved a lot. Five years ago teams had one or two really good batsmen. Now it's four or five. The last World Cup was different with the top three having a dip in the first 15 overs. Something new will happen this time too. Maybe the bowlers will be more aggressive.

Overall I'm still working on myself as a person and as a player. This won't stop until I achieve all I want to achieve. I think I need to improve mentally. In the past I've gone the other way, worrying about technique and so on. I realise I need to be more positive and take the pressure off myself. I used to go up and down too much. It was frustration. Now I can go away and think about the mistakes I made. I can recognise the signs and settle myself down. I'm much more at ease with myself and I'm hitting the ball pretty well. I just hope that the top one-day players are given the respect they deserve. Anyhow I'm looking forward to the World Cup. It'll be a great challenge.

Michael Bevan, acclaimed as arguably the finest one-day cricketer, spoke to Peter Roebuck.

ONENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE

Achievement is ...
Where every individual is committed



EDEN IN FLANES

INDIA LOSES THE 1996 WORLD CUP SEMI-FINAL AND FIRES AT EDEN GARDENS IN CALCUTTA REFLECT THE CROWD'S PAIN AND DISPLEASURE

By Patrick Eagar

have always used Nikon cameras and lenses. Unlike other systems, every Nikon lens fits every camera. My favourite camera is the Nikon F5. For cricket photography the best lenses are the 600 mm f/4 Nikkor and the 800 mm f/5.6 Nikkor. These are heavy so a solid tripod is essential. In England I use a trolley to carry my equipment around. I enjoy the challenge of working in different

> environments but photographers often have to brave the elements. At one Test at Headingley in England the temperature was 7° Celsius with an added wind-chill factor. During the 1996 semi-final in Calcutta it was 38° Celsius.

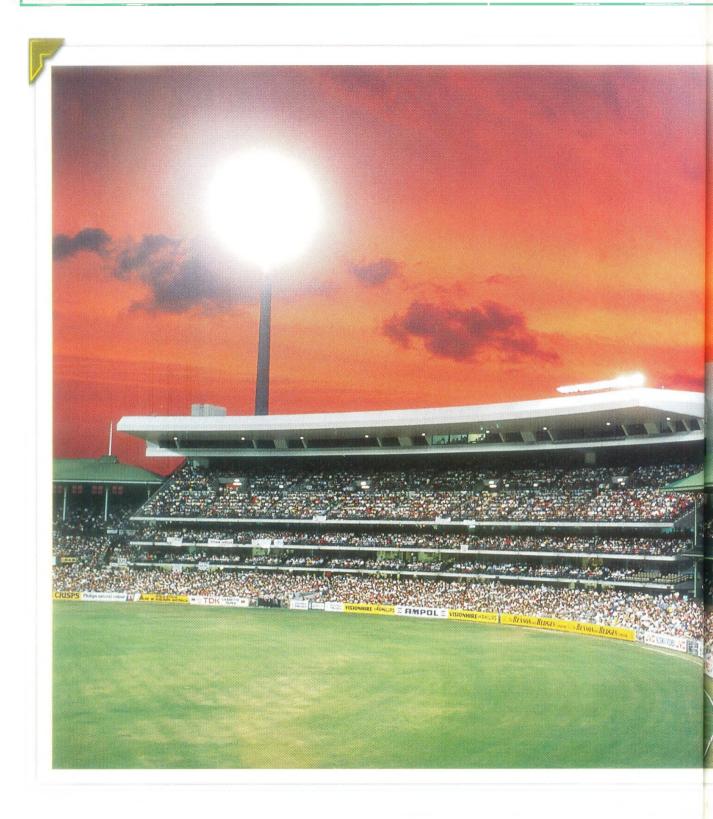
> I could be tempted to compile a list of the best players I have ever photographed. The best allrounder is unquestionably Gary Sobers and the best fast bowler Dennis Lillee. The best leg-spinner Shane Warne, the best wicketkeeper Alan Knott and the best opening batsman Gordon Greenidge. Finally a special personal award for the most exciting and outrageous player I ever photographed—Ian Botham. As a photographer you could never afford to ignore him at any time. There is also only one way to capture peak moments in a match and that is by watching every ball. Certainly it gets tiring.

> I hope you enjoy my selection of photographs, the majority of which are from World Cups down the years.

Patrick Eagar is acknowledged as the world's finest cricket photographer.

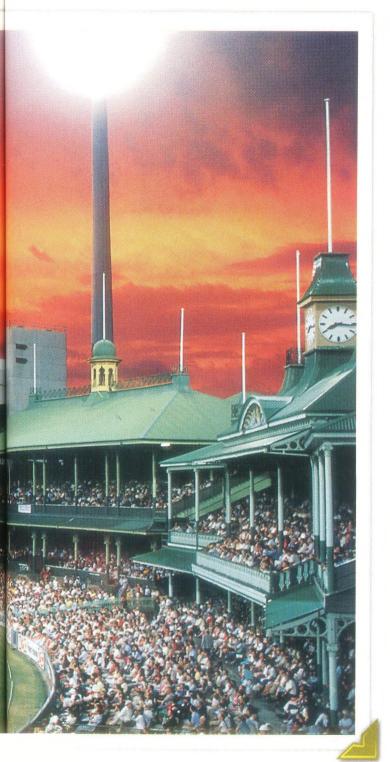






Let's make things better.





* BIG BOYS PLAY AT AIGHT

LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION. THE MODERN GAME IS A COMMERCIALLY RUN ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY.





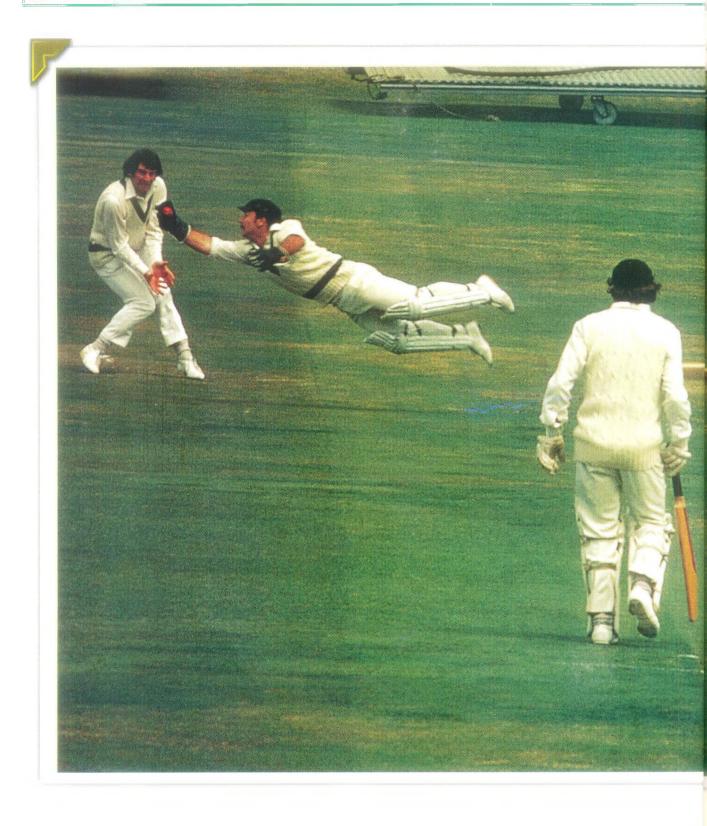
* WEST INDIAN WELCOME

NOT EVERYTHING IN CRICKET IS BEAUTIFUL.

ROBIN SMITH IS SURPRISED BY AN IAN
BISHOP BOUNCER AND RETURNS TO THE
PAVILION WITH A BROKEN CHEEKBONE.

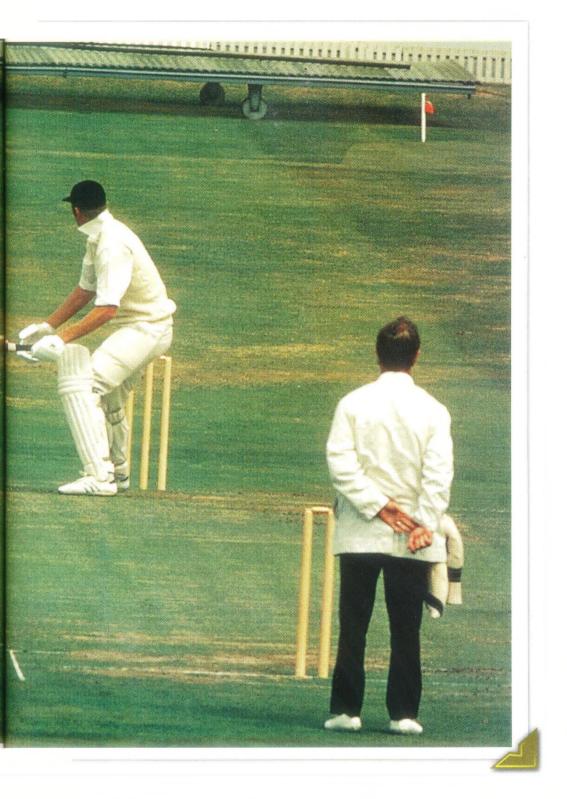
Let's make things better.





Let's make things better.



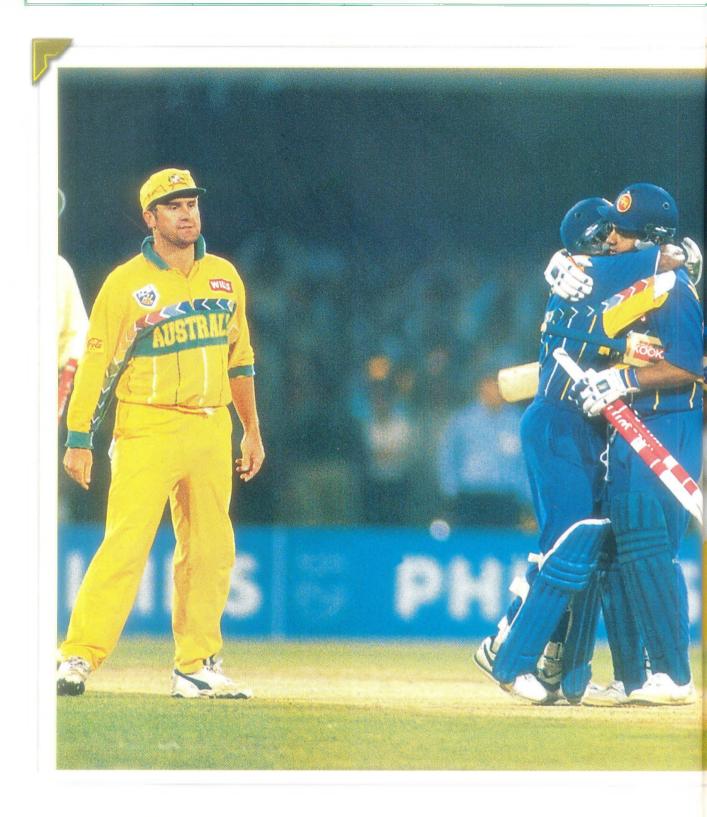


* FLIGHT OF GENILS

TONY GREIG CUTS FOR FOUR IN THE 1975 SEMI-FINALS. OR SO HE THOUGHT, TILL A FLYING ROD MARSH CAME IN THE WAY OF THE BALL.

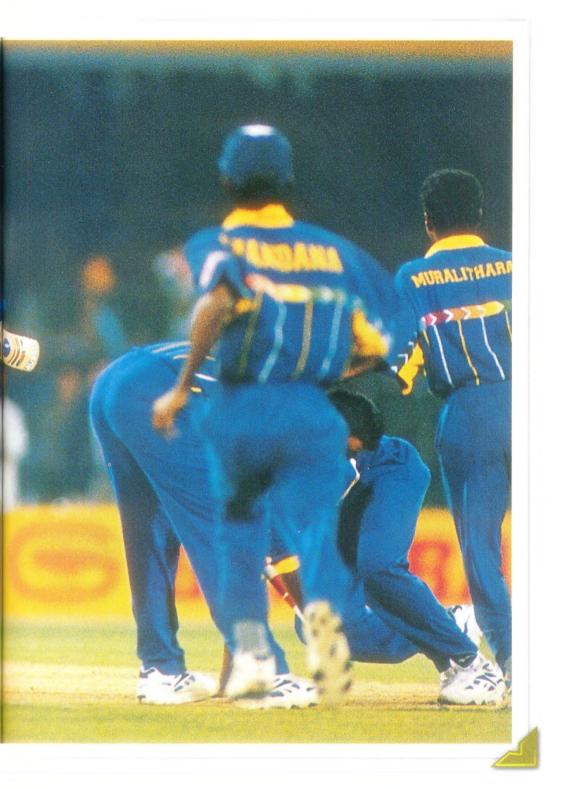
Let's make things better.





Let's make things better.





+ IMPOSSIBLE BREAM

THE 66-1 UNDERDOGS TRIUMPH IN 1996. AS DE SILVA AND CAPTAIN RANATUNGA HUG, TAYLOR IS A STUDY IN DESPAIR.

Let's make things better.





IT'S NOT CRICKET

A SILLY RAIN-RULE CHECKS THE CHARGING PROTEAS IN THE 1992 SEMI-FINALS, PRESENTING THEM AN IMPOSSIBLE TARGET TO ACHIEVE.



ELECTRIC HEELS

KEEPER TO KEEPER.

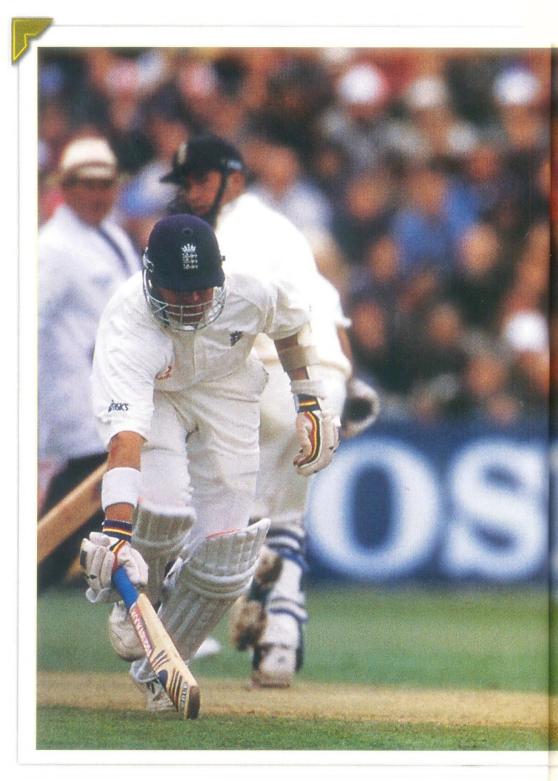
MARK BOUCHER

IMPERSONATES A

GYMNAST, BUT ALEC

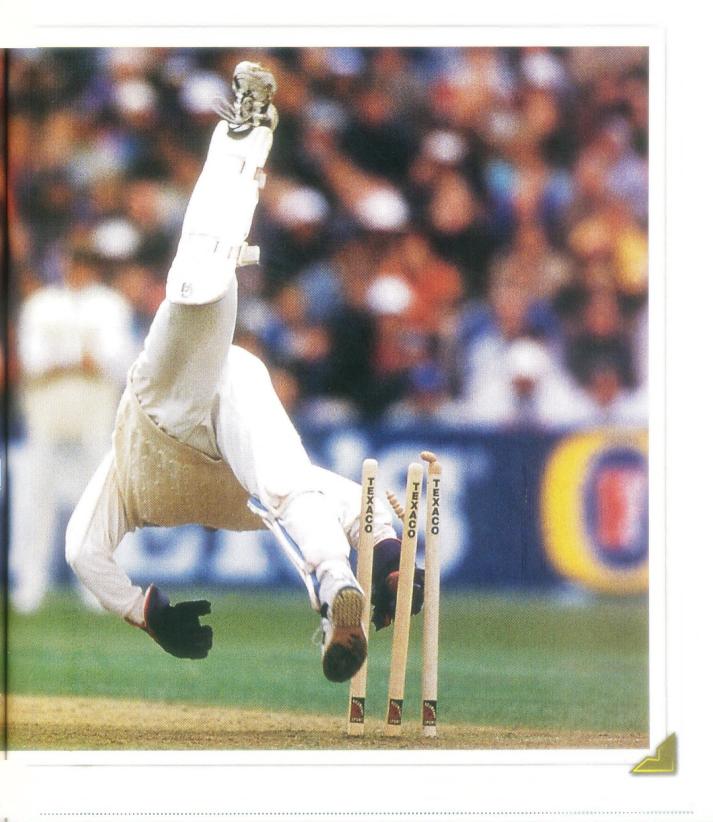
STEWART STRETCHES TO

GET IN SAFELY.



Let's make things better.



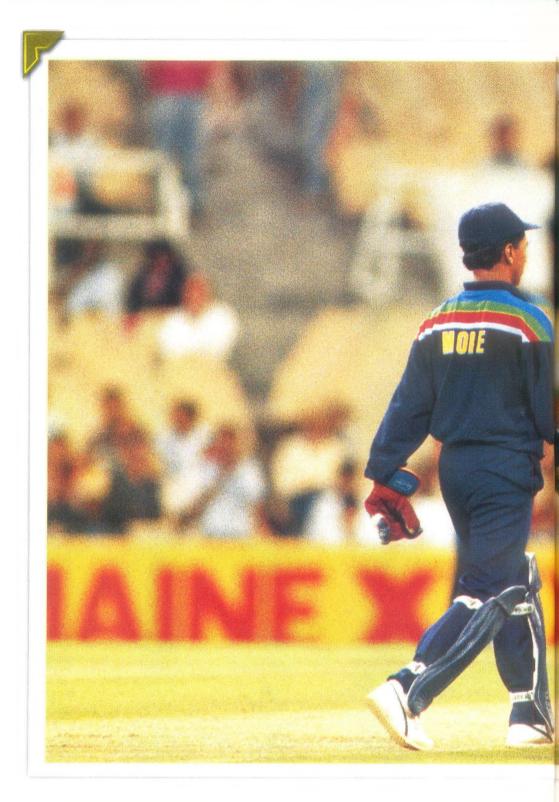


Let's make things better.



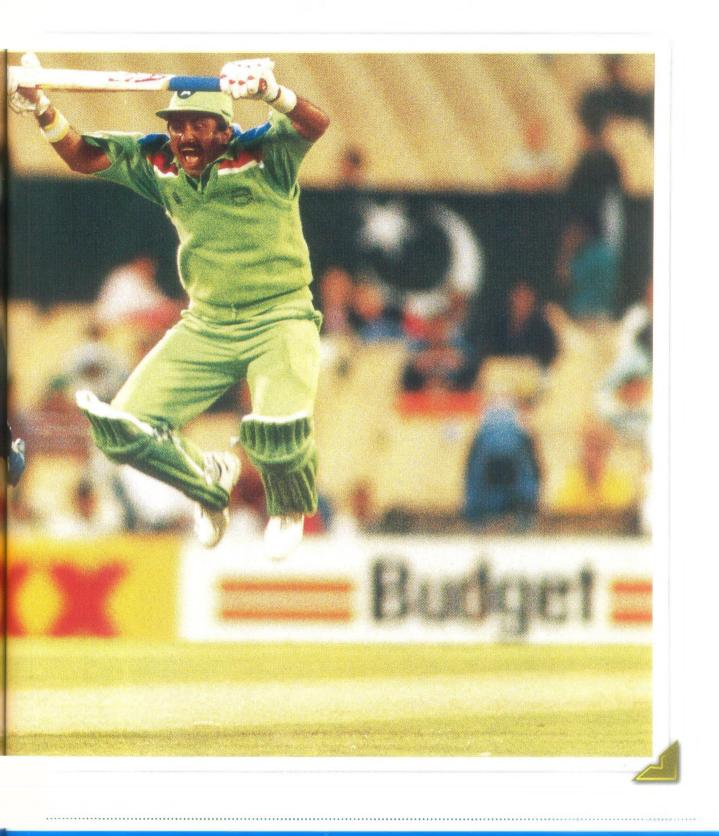
* MOVEEL BUSINESS

MIANDAD TRIES TO UNSETTLE MORE WITH AN IMITATION OF HIS APPEALING IN 1992. MORE HAD THE LAST LAUGH AS INDIA WON.









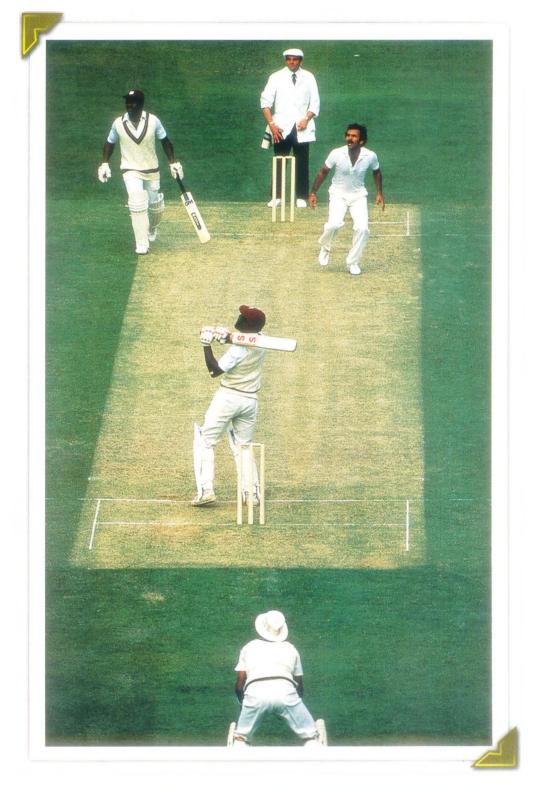
Let's make things better.





GOING TO PIECES

THE 1992 WORLD CUP WAS BOTHAM'S LAST. HE PLAYED BRAVELY BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THIS WAS A LEGEND STARTING TO DISINTEGRATE.



· PICTURE OF DEFEAT

ONE SHOT IS ALL IT TAKES. RICHARDS MISHITS MADAN LAL (TO KAPIL) AND INDIA'S VICTORY CHARGE BEGINS IN THE 1983 FINAL.





Selling of CRICKET

By Amrit Mathur

he commonly held perception of cricket as a Kuber sitting atop an enormous mountain of wealth and riches is accurate. Cricket in India is a pervasive *nasha*—from doddering uncles to infirm ammas, everyone is addicted. Children identify cricketers before they recognise their parents and clutch cricket bats when asleep. Cricket provides unimaginable riches and fame. It can transport someone from a chawl to chowpatty in an instant.

Cricket's *jadoo* boils down to numbers. The game is India's staple diet, an unmatched adhesive that binds society, but marketing experts confirm its clout stems from an ability to impact large volumes. When every Indian, from the prime minister to the panwalla, celebrates Kumble's 10 for 74 the triumph rightly belongs to Indian cricket. Corporate backers of cricket rejoice because this universal appeal translates into cash. Days after Anil Kumble's feat he was being offered sweet deals. As the economy grows the mountain under Kuber expands.

There was always cash in Indian cricket, only the source was different. Earlier it came from gate collection; people crammed stands to watch India and Pakistan play five dreary draws and endured Bapu Nadkarni's 18 maidens in a row. I remember watching a match in 1974 and paying Rs 28 for a seat in the general

* CORPORATE INDIA'S HOTTEST BRAND IS TENDULKAR. HE HAS A DEAL WITH ADIDAS WHICH REPORTEDLY FETCHES HIM RS 5 CRORE OVER THREE YEARS.



This World
Cup's major
chunk of
funding and
television
revenue is
from Indian
companies.





The '99 Cheque List

he cricket World Cup can never compare financially with the Olympics, but the game is making some progress. On offer in this 42-match tournament is \$300,000 (Rs 1.26 crore) for the winner, \$150,000 (Rs 63 lakh) for the runner-up and \$100,000 (Rs 42 lakh) for the losing semi-finalists. Each team gets an appearance money of \$250,000 (Rs 1.05 crore). Breaking tradition, the current World Cup dispensed with naming a title sponsor. Instead a clutch of suppliers and sponsors, paying £500,000 (Rs 3.45 crore) and £2 million (Rs 19.8 crore), have been roped in. But the organisers have found only four sponsors—Pepsi, Vodafone, Emirates

Airline, NatWest Bank-instead of the expected eight. Corporate hospitality in cricket is also a growing multi-million dollar industry, the cost of looking after one quest at Lord's during the final is £180 (Rs 12,420) plus taxes. In India spectator comfort is an alien concept (the best seats don't provide access to a loo) and business promotion means two passes for government officials. Professionallyhandled hospitality packages in England will yield close to \$15 million (Rs 63 crore).

The largest slice of revenue is from TV rights. Unlike 1996 when worldwide rights went to a single company on a minimum-guaran-



lacktriangle More viewers means more ad revenue for TV channels. To keep the nation tuned to its cup telecast ESPN/STAR runs a series of ads featuring cricket-crazed Apple Singh.

tee basis, this time separate deals were stitched together for different territories. This strategy has netted a whopping \$45 million (Rs 189 crore), an enormous jump from the \$10 million at the Wills World Cup.

Some realities remain unaltered. This World Cup too is driven mostly by funding from Indian corporate giants. In 1996, PILCOM, the cup's organising body, appointed Saatchi and Saatchi, a worldwide marketing outfit to sell the World Cup. It produced nothing. So PILCOM chairman Jagmohan Dalmiya proceeded to locate sponsors himself. ITC happily parted with £8 million (Rs 55.2 crore), others too came and ultimately the World Cup was a resounding financial success. The bottomline: India is flush with money, Pakistan and Sri Lanka lack sponsorship support, the West Indies is perpetually broke and England and Australia don't warm up to cricket in the subcontinent. Astonishingly, the 1999 World Cup is also India funded. Pepsi, Hero Honda and LG are releasing money from operations in India—LG itself is spending Rs 10 crore on cricket-related promotion—and even the major chunk of television revenue is from India, with ESPN/Star and Doordarshan putting \$20 million (Rs 84 crore) on the table for the rights.

The World Cup reinforces the belief that all cricket initiatives are India fuelled. Once England sustained cricket, now every impulse of globalisation is a direct consequence of the patronage of a loaded NRI or a cricket-crazed Indian CEO.

stands; today the cheapest ticket is Rs 500 and it is not just inflation but a reflection of the demand. Cricket economics altered dramatically with India's 1983 World Cup win. Images of Kapil Dev holding aloft the trophy in England were beamed live on colour TV brought to India just the year before by Indira Gandhi's Asian Games. This unexpected win spawned a major change. One-day cricket and television built a strong partnership which triggered an economic boom. Sponsors, sensing huge commercial possibilities, jostled with one another to associate with this hot product.

The sponsorship-driven phase ebbed with television's rebirth in the early '90s. It took some time though for India to grasp the fundamentals of television rights. When South Africa returned to international cricket after decades in isolation and were preparing to tour India for three one-day internationals there was a frantic inquiry from a Johannesburg television channel. It wanted to acquire the television rights, and asked, how much. The response to this call was utter confusion. Did the Indian cricket board possess the television rights, was Doordarshan the owner? The arrangement till then was

that Doordarshan produced (sloppy) pictures and collected advertising revenue. The board acquiesced because it made a pile from sponsors who were happy that cricket pictures soared into every corner of the country.

Besides ownership, the more tricky issue arising from that urgent call was of value. Nobody knew how much to ask. Cricket gurus tossed up a figure (\$15,000) for each match and then doubled it as a negotiating ploy (\$30,000). Except that before they could embarrass themselves the buyer himself quoted a number more than twice that amount and the sale was approved.

This extraordinary incident opened everyone's eyes and stunned officials realised they owned a valuable product. With the advent of private channels coveting prime programming, this value escalated. Competitive bidding resulted in the board netting close to

\$3 million (Rs 12.6 crore) annually for its cricket rights, a figure that could triple when rights are renegotiated later this year. This is serious money and networks quickly mop up investment by selling advertising spots. A one-day game with almost 65 minutes of advertising time generates more than Rs 2 crore; an India-Pakistan match pulls in double this amount because a 10 second slot costs a lakh.

redictably, given the high visibility provided by television, sponsorship stakes have risen. The chief players are the cola giants with Pepsi currently holding long-term rights to sponsor one-dayers and Tests in India. Coke, trying vainly to catch up and insert a foot in the door, paid \$1.75 million (Rs 7.35 crore) for the low-interest (following India's defeat) Asian Test championships. What it got in return was debatable because Pakistan (eventual winners) refused to touch Coke or wear logos citing previous contractual arrangements with Pepsi! For potential sponsors having the Indian team sport their logo is a matter of prestige. At present this property belongs to Wills. The tab for the 7.5 sq in sign on the chest and the sleeve is Rs 22 lakh for a Test and Rs 17 lakh for a one-dayer.

The cost of regular cricket advertising has also jumped sharply. A 20-ft ground panel at square leg costs over Rs 1 lakh for an India match. Total rights for an India Pakistan game could reach half a crore,

WHERE THERE IS CRICKET, THERE ARE SPONSORS. THE OIL GIANT TEXACO SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL MATCHES IN ENGLAND.





A smartly
marketed
one-day match
can fetch the
Indian board
Rs 2 crore.

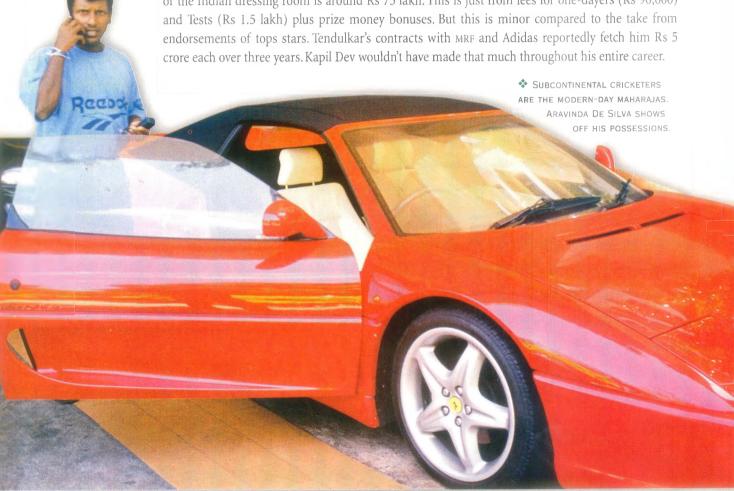


The top cricketers profit from a mix of

the price tag for the sightscreen is anything between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 15 lakh. Despite a sluggish economy and financial stringency there is no slackening on cricket-related advertising budgets: the rights for the recent India-Pakistan-Sri Lanka series final went for over Rs 80 lakh, an all-time record in India.

rofits are high and cricket business is thriving as every corporate house desiring a publicity splash leans on the game. Hardly surprising therefore that recent Test matches in India drew record crowds. At Calcutta tickets were sold in black, Delhi and Chennai reported full houses and large profits exceeding half a crore after paying Rs 30 lakh for the rights to stage the match. One-day profits easily exceed Rs 1 crore, and key games, if marketed smartly like in Bangalore and Mohali, can fetch Rs 2 crore plus.

Some of these swirling millions reach the players. The legal annual earnings of a regular occupant of the Indian dressing room is around Rs 75 lakh. This is just from fees for one-dayers (Rs 90,000) and Tests (Rs 1.5 lakh) plus prize money bonuses. But this is minor compared to the take from endorsements of tops stars. Tendulkar's contracts with MRF and Adidas reportedly fetch him Rs 5 crore each over three years. Kapil Dev wouldn't have made that much throughout his entire career.



terrific image and crafty positioning.

Mohammed Azharuddin, with his unrivalled status of 300 plus one-dayers, is expensive. But the real commercial marvel is Ajay Jadeja who profiting from a mix of terrific image and crafty positioning sells more products (shampoo, toothpaste, cricket clothing, colas, beer, motor oil, shoes, sunglasses) than a general-store owner. An advertisement on his bat for instance would go for an impressive Rs 25-30 lakh. In this game everyone gains. Venkatesh Prasad, with a Test average of 6.19, has a bat contract!



**

Different
strategies
have to be
evolved in
England as the
conditions do
not suit an
aggressive

*

start.

GOOD CAPTAINCY IS
GETTING YOUR PLAYERS TO
PERFORM WHEN IT COUNTS,
LIKE TAYLOR INSPIRING THE
AUSTRALIANS TO A LASTDITCH VICTORY AGAINST THE
WEST INDIES IN THE 1996
WORLD CUP SEMI-FINALS.

TAGIOS in TAGION

By Mike Brearley

n the last World Cup Sri Lanka's stunning success lay largely in their courage to stick to their policy of going flat out in the first 15 overs. In the initial overs fielding sides are allowed only two fielders outside the circle, so Jayasuriya and Co were able to hit through the line and clear the inner ring of fielders. Sri Lanka's policy was not exactly pinch-hitting, as I understand that baseball term, since their early-order batsmen were quality stroke-players rather than lower-order hitters promoted for a slog. This was batting of high quality and total lack of inhibition and it was very exhilarating to watch unless you happened to be the opposition opening bowlers and captain trying desperately to find fingers to plug leaky dikes. I for one failed the Tebbitt test as I soon became a Sri Lankan supporter. They were also able to carry this through because their side had several all-rounders, especially batsmen who could bowl spin. Their depth

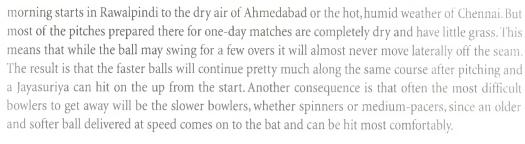


Strategy, however, evolves around conditions, and it is quite possible that Sri Lanka will not adopt the same approach at the 1999 World Cup as the pitches will play differently in the early part of the English summer. The pitches in the subcontinent do vary as does the climate, from hazy and chilly early





COMMUNICATION IS ONE OF CAPTAINCY'S FIRST COMMANDMENTS, YEI IT OFTEN SEEMS THAT THE ALOOF AZHAR MISSED THAT LESSON.



n England everything will be different. The pitches will vary more, as will the weather. On the whole the pitches will be solidly packed, no looseness in the surface even as the match goes on, thus spinners will get little purchase. The grass on English pitches tends to be greener and juicier than those in the subcontinent, more suitable for Jersey cows, especially in the early summer of May and June. This means that if there is any dampness or rain clouds in the air the humidity freshens the grass and helps seam bowlers by enabling them to move the ball late in the air and off the pitch. The weather cannot be predicted: it can be very cold—I have played while a flurry of snow fell in late May—or warm and sunny, thus tending to favour batsmen.

In many of the matches the new ball will move late to make the Jayasuriya method unpromising; there would be too much risk, too many airy shots. Batting is likely to get easier as the ball gets older, unlike in the 1996 competition. Sri Lanka are unlikely to go flat out with their previous tactics.

From the captains' point of view one of the big questions will be the approach to the first 15 overs, whether batting or fielding. How many early risks will different sides take? How many rapid bowling changes will they make to prevent batsmen from finding a rhythm? Have the teams paid attention to the importance of bowlers being able to operate in frequent short spells, coming back each time without needing potentially costly looseners?

In general captaincy is the same from generation to generation. The task is to get the best out of one's players and to be clear and yet flexible in tactics. In 1979 when I captained England at the World Cup there were no circles on the field, no fielding restrictions. These rules very much improve one-day cricket, making it more flexible and more attacking. The early innings restriction means that it is hard



ONE FOR ALL, ALL FOR ONE. THE SOUTH AFRICANS, LED BY THE YOUNG AND DYNAMIC HANSIE CRONJE, ARE A GRITTY, MOTIVATED UNIT



for the fielding side to be on the defence early on, and there is more incentive to get people out rather than simply stop them from scoring. Later in the innings having four fielders inside the circle means it is possible to hit

> boundaries by ordinary skilful batting, and the skill is not so much reduced to strength or to athleticism between the wickets.

> Readers may remember that in 1979 England lost the final to the West Indies by 92 runs and I was

Brearley's ADVICE To the 1999 Captains

- Build up team spirit with team discussions and by informally talking "shop" with players.
- Be frank with players about their role and what you expect of them.
- Practise aspects of fielding extensively.
- Avoid giving away extra runs with wides and no balls.
- Have policies worked out for the first 15 overs of the innings (flexible according to conditions).
- ▶ Bring home to players the requirement that they must be flexible—bowlers ready to bowl very short spells, batsmen to change position in batting order at very short notice.
- Emphasise that all 15 players should be fit and ready to play at a moment's notice, and that no one is indispensable.
- Be ready to gamble and take the initiative by surprising the opposition.

ARJUNA RANATUNGA'S
POLICY OF INTRODUCING
THE RIGHT TALENT AT
THE RIGHT TIME HAS
CLICKED FOR SRI LANKA

ARJUN

criticised on two counts: one was that we should not have gone into the match with only four specialist bowlers and the other that we scored too slowly in the early stages of our reply. Broadly speaking I accept the latter criticism but not the former. We knew we had some task to get 287 against the West Indies attack. In those days there was no real concept of a pinch-hitter. We opened with our usual openers, Boycott and myself. We thought we had made a good start. At the tea break we were 79 for 0 after 25 overs, so we needed 193 from 35 (60-over matches in those days). That's a reasonable target. Discussing the situation in the dressing room I was inclined to have an all-out slog, taking every risk in the book and telling Boycott to up his rate too. Instead I was talked out of it by other members of the team, who said, in the "old pro" way, that we shouldn't get too excited. So we carried on batting without total urgency. And this in effect lost us the game. I'd made a wrong decision, even though the odds had been very much against us making 287 against that attack whatever we did tactically.

he second criticism was about the balance of our side: we went for seven batsmen and four main bowlers, relying on Boycott or Gooch to fill in as our fifth bowler. Oddly enough my main justification for this, apart from the crucial contribution with bat and in the field by Randall, our seventh batsman, lay in Boycott's track record as a bowler: in the semi-final he had taken one for 24 in nine overs and in the earlier match against the powerful Pakistan side two for 14 in five overs to give us a 14-run win in a very tight finish. His slow-medium inswingers from round the wicket were shrewd, mean, competitive ... and surprising.

And that too is a perennial feature of good captaincy, to take one's opponents by surprise, as Ranatunga did so brilliantly in 1996. Will any captain come up with something new in 1999?



Captaincy
is still about
getting the
best out of
your players.



Former England captain Mike Brearley's The Art of Captaincy is considered a definitive work on the subject.



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hey come from all over, men strong of sinew and overflowing with ambition. For three years and more they have known that this would be the summer when in the cool lands of England they face their severest examination. Race, colour, religion have no meaning here. Instead it is courage and skill, wisdom and character, speed and muscle, that will be the virtues under scrutiny. Frailty will have few friends, heroism will be widely embraced.

Every team will come to win, some more ready than others. South Africa are firm favourites, but they know too that fickleness is the very definition of their sport. West Indies come to salvage a reputation, Australia to enhance theirs, Bangladesh and Scotland to make one. The subcontinent has won the last two World Cups. Is its dominance coming to an end? Perhaps, for Sri Lanka is in turmoil, India in dismal form, Pakistan always on the edge of disarray. But then again, once the first shot is struck strange things have been known to happen in one-day cricket. Overcoming the odds is the very nature of sport.

As much as this is about teams it is about individuals, men of such boldness that in an hour, maybe less, they can make history. Established heroes like Sachin Tendulkar, like Mark Waugh, like Brian Lara, carry with them records so impressive that strong men go weak just looking at them. Will they take the pressure or will other men supplant them when the moment arrives?

Questions, questions, and in the end only one matters. Who dares win?





GROUP A: England, India, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Kenya

Coach: DAVID LLOYD

The Odds: 5-1

Best Performance: Runner-up 1979, 1987 and 1992

Highest Total: 334/4 (60) vs Ind, Lord's, 1975 **Lowest Total:** 93 (36.2) vs Aus, Leeds, 1975

Highest Individual Score: Dennis Amiss (137) vs Ind, Lord's, 1975

Best Bowling: Vic Marks (5/39) vs SL, Taunton, 1983

The Truth is ...

... home advantage is overrated. Sri Lanka are the only hosts (actually cohosts) to have won. Still, as visitors shiver, the chill of cricket in May suits the home team just fine. A team that has many fine players—Gough, Hick, Stewart—but no great ones need this advantage. Back home the team is viewed with suspicion, lacking the necessary charisma. If the gigantic Flintoff (please, says the coach, no Botham comparisons) ignites they might finally have the firepower they desire. If they get to the semis, look out.



MAN TO WATCH

NEIL FAIRBROTHER: Consistent, tenacious, the Lancashire batsman attracts all the right adjectives. A superb fielder, an astute judge of the quick single and best of all calm during a crisis. England's greying answer to Michael Bevan, he is the man to turn to in the chase. If he goes cold (or his hamstrings seize) this summer, England's slim chances get slimmer.

	P	AY	ER	SP	O R	W	0 1		CU	P	99		
			BATT	ING					8	0 W	LING	+	
PLAYERS	M	R	Hs	Avg	100	50	Ct	Balls	R	W	Avg	Best	Econ
I. Austin	7	34	11*	6.80	-	-	-	363	294	3	98.00	2-37	4.85
R. Croft	42	287	32	15.10	-	-	9	2172	1522	40	38.05	3-51	4.20
M. Ealham	34	441	45	17.64	-	-	3	1694	1206	36	33.50	5-32	4.27
N. F'brother	70	2035	113	39.90	1	16	33	6	9	0	*	-	9.00
A. Flintoff	4	85	50	21.25	-	1	-	134	132	5	26.40	2-3	5.91
A. Fraser	39	123	38*	12.30	-	-	2	2212	1301	46	28.28	4-22	3.52
D. Gough	60	300	45	11.11	-	-	9	3344	2388	97	24.61	5-44	4.28
G. Hick	91	3112	126*	38.41	5	20	45	955	785	21	37.38	3-41	4.93
A. Hollloake	32	600	83*	26.08	-	3	13	1100	929	31	29.96	4-23	5.06
N. Hussain	28	549	93	23.86	-	2	14	100	-	-	-	PR	16
N. Knight	44	1620	125*	39.51	3	9	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
A. Mullaly	24	44	20	6.28	-	***	5	1287	868	28	31.00	4-18	4.04
A. Stewart	120	3253	116	30.40	2	18	104	-	-	-	-	-	-
G. Thorpe	48	1661	89	40.51	-	16	26	120	97	2	48.50	2-15	4.85
V. Wells	9	141	39	20.14	-	**	7	220	189	8	23.62	3-30	5.15

Statistics till April 18, 1999. Stewart has 11 stumpings. Odds by bookmakers William Hill. Ceat rankings as on April 21, 1999.

O SOUTH AFRICA

GROUP A: England, India, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Kenya

Coach: Bob Woolmer The Odds: 3-1

Best Performance: Semi-finalist in 1992

Highest Total: 328-3 (50) vs Holland, Rawalpindi, 1996

Lowest Total: 195 (50) vs SL, Wellington, 1992

Highest Individual Score: G. Kirsten (188*) vs UAE, Rawalpindi, 1996

Best Bowling: M. Pringle (4-11) vs Wl, Christchurch, 1992

The Truth is ...

... if professionalism is the test, then give them the trophy. The Proteas are fit, fast, focused. And inventive—remember their short-pitched bowling to the West Indies in a one-dayer last year! Magnificent fast bowler in Donald, fine all-rounders in Pollock, Klusener, Kallis, thoughtful captain in Cronje, sizzling fielder in Rhodes and great coach in Woolmer. But flaws remain. The batting has hiccups, and they choke on pressure occasions. But as Sri Lanka, India and England reflect poor form, this is their chance.



MAN TO WATCH

JACQUES KALLIS: South Africa stick by their men and he has been worth the wait, blossoming recently into a stylish, aggressive all-rounder. In an inconsistent batting lineup he is the cement that holds it together; in a powerful bowling attack he lends muscle. He is strong and quick and a breaker of partnerships with old ball and new. If that's not enough, he's got a strong throwing arm too.

	P	AY	ER	S	0 R	W	0 R			P	99		
			BATT	I N G					В	8 W	LING		
PLAYERS	M	R	Hs	Avg	100	50	Ct	Balls	R	W	Avg	Best	Econ
D. Benkenstei	n 10	193	69	32.16	-	1	1	12	13	0	-	-	6.50
N. Boje	18	74	28	14.80	-	-	6	796	577	17	33.94	3-33	4.34
M. Boucher	30	199	51	11.70	-	1	41	-	-	-	-	-	-
W. Cronje	159	4825	112	39.87	2	34	60	4760	3448	101	34.13	5-32	4.34
D. Crookes	24	243	54	18.69	-	1	16	863	688	15	45.86	3-30	4.78
D. Cullinan	113	3413	124	35.18	3	22	50	168	120	5	24.00	2-30	4.28
A. Dawson	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	51	1	51.00	1-51	5.66
A. Donald	112	73	12	4.86	-	-	14	5946	4011	190	21.11	6-23	4.04
S. Elworthy	15	15	14*	15.00	-	-	4	604	501	20	25.05	3-21	4.97
H. Gibbs	27	606	125	23.30	1	1	12		-	-	-	-	-
J. Kallis	65	2127	113*	40.13	5	12	27	1676	1339	44	30.43	5-30	4.78
G. Kirsten	103	3815	188*	41.46	8	22	33	30	23	0	-	-	4.60
L. Klusener	53	1307	103*	39.60	1	8	11	2471	2018	73	27.64	6-49	4.90
S. Pollock	70	1005	75	29.55	-	4	18	3668	2391	103	23.21	6-35	3.91
J. Rhodes	151	3572	121	32.77	1	16	74	-	-			-	-

Statistics till April 18, 1999. Boucher has 2 stumpings. Odds by bookmakers William Hill. Ceat rankings as on April 21, 1999.



GROUP A: England, India, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Kenya

Coach: Dave Houghton The Odds: 80-1

Best Performance: Beating Eng in the 1992 World Cup

Highest Total: 312-4 (50) vs SL, New Plymouth, 1992

Lowest Total: 134 (46.1) vs Eng, Albury, 1992

Highest Individual Score: D. Houghton (142) vs NZ, Hyderabad, 1987

Best Bowling: Paul Strang (5-21) vs Ken, Patna, 1996

The Truth is ...

... this could be the team to decide Group A. Powered always by Flower, Flower and Campbell, the team has jumped a level with the arrival of Murray Goodwin (a West Australian player) and the all-rounder Neil Johnson. Wonderfully alert in the field, with the English conditions not too alien to them, they may not get into the Super Six but could very well decide who else doesn't. Weakness is an ability to close out matches. But inexperience doesn't stop them from being the dark horses.



MAN TO WATCH

NEIL JOHNSON: Last year, a day or so before Zimbabwe played its first Test against India, this South African got his Zimbabwean citizenship. He bowls seam up, which is made to order in England, and gives an impetus to the batting order. Adds heft to team that has lacked enough class players. Scored 500 runs (2 centuries, 2 fifties) in his 14 matches, which is quite a start.

	P	AY	BR	SF	0 R	W	0 1	R L D	CU	P	99		
			BATT	I N G					В	O W	LING	6	
PLAYER8	M	R	Hs	Avg	100	50	Ct	Balls	R	W	Avg	Best	Econ
E. Brandes	56	383	55	12.76	-	2	11	2702	2159	69	31.28	5-28	4.79
A. Campbell	97	2484	131*	29.57	3	15	39	345	259	8	32.37	2-22	4.50
S. Carlisle	12	208	43	20.80	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
G. Flower	92	3080	140	35.81	3	22	38	1600	1321	41	32.21	4-32	4.95
A. Flower	105	3197	115*	32.95	1	27	73	30	23	0	-	-	4.60
M. Goodwin	31	846	111	27.29	1	4	8	206	173	3	57.66	1-12	5.03
A. Huckle	16	9	5*	4.50	~	-	5	738	584	6	97.33	2-27	4.74
N. Johnson	14	500	103	35.71	2	2	7	555	466	9	51.77	2-39	5.03
M. Mbangwa	15	24	11	4.80	-	-	2	724	590	7	84.28	2-24	4.88
H. Olonga	7	6	6	6.00	-	-	2	276	313	8	39.12	4-46	6.80
P. Strang	72	955	47	25.13	-	-	22	3424	2363	79	29.91	5-21	4.14
H. Streak	73	810	59	21.31	-	1	15	3634	2672	89	30.02	5-32	4.41
D. Viljoen	12	148	36	16.44	-	-	2	282	207	6	34.50	2-31	4.40
A. Whittall	44	140	29	10.76	-	-	14	2245	1564	38	41.15	3-23	4.18
G. Whittall	72	1514	83	24.41	-	9	19	2193	1899	49	38.75	3-43	5.19

CEAT

Team

Ranking 6

Statistics till April 18, 1999. A. Flower has 23 stumpings. Odds by bookmakers William Hill. Ceat rankings as on April 21, 1999.



GROUP A: England, India, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Kenya

Coach: Roy DIAS The Odds: 8-1

Best Performance: Winner in 1996

Highest Total: 398-5 (50) vs Kenya, Kandy, 1996 **Lowest Total:** 86 (37.2) vs WI, Manchester, 1975

Highest Individual Score: A. de Silva (145) vs Kenya, Kandy, 1996

Best Bowling: Asantha de Mel (5-32) vs NZ, Derby, 1983



... repeating the 1996 win would be asking too much. Injuries, indifferent form and fielding like the Batliboi Second XI have made them look second grade recently. To just make it out of Group A and into the Super Six the batting will have to fire repeatedly to cover up their bowling frailties. Proud men, who handled the English conditions well enough last year to win the Emirates Cup, will not lie down and die. Ranatunga, in his last World Cup, believes he has a point to prove. Still, a romantic's favourite.



MAN TO WATCH

ARAVINDA DE SILVA: Two innings, the semi-finals and final in 1996, were exhibitions in shot selection, placement and nerve. He had found his stage. Now he is older, slower—a supreme batsman is fading slightly but he is not done with yet. With the world in attendance, great players invariably find themselves. Sri Lanka will pray for it, for without him they are clearly a lesser team.

	P	LAY	ER	SF	0 R	W	0 8			P	99		
			BATT	I N G					В	0 W	LING	4	
PLAYERS	M	R	Hs	Avg	100	50	Ct	Balls	R	W	Avg	Best	Econ
M. Atapattu	69	2028	132*	33.80	2	14	28	51	41	0	-	-	4.82
U. Chandana	51	561	50	17.00	-	1	28	1909	1571	49	32.06	4-31	4.93
A. de Silva	254	8020	145	36.12	11	55	79	3940	3224	83	38.84	4-45	4.90
C. Hath'singhe	35	669	66	20.90	-	4	6	954	709	14	50.64	4-57	4.45
S. Jayasuriya	178	4672	151*	28.66	7	29	59	6587	5349	152	35.19	6-29	4.87
M. Jwardena	20	510	120	28.33	2	2	8	240	233	1	233.00	1-24	5.82
R. Kalpage	86	844	51	20.58	-	1	33	3960	2975	73	40.75	4-36	4.50
R. Kaluwi'ana	112	1930	100*	18.92	1	12	75	-	*	-	-	-	
R. Mahanama	208	5026	119*	29.56	4	35	108	2	7	0	-	-	21.00
M. Mu'tharan	110	147	18	5.88	-	-	53	5973	4223	150	28.15	5-23	4.24
A. Ranatunga	264	7320	131*	36.05	4	48	62	4723	3773	79	47.75	4-14	4.79
H. Tillekeratne	180	3438	104	29.89	2	12	79	180	141	6	23.50	1-3	4.70
E. Upashantha	5	28	15	9.33	-	-	2	234	183	6	30.50	2-24	4.69
C. Vaas	108	506	33	12.04	-	-	18	5224	3676	136	27.02	4-20	4.22
P. Wic'singhe	111	238	21*	7.43	-	-	17	4771	3550	89	39.88	4-48	4.46

Statistics till April 18,1999. Kaluwitharana has 48 stumpings. Odds by bookmakers William Hill. Ceat rankings as on April 21, 1999.

K E N Y A

GROUP A: England, India, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka, Kenya

Coach: ALVIN KALLICHARAN The Odds: 500-1

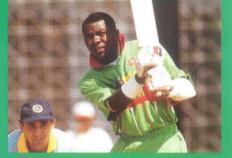
Best Performance: Beat WI in the 1996 World Cup

Highest Total: 254-7 (50) vs SL, Kandy, 1996 **Lowest Total:** 134 (49.4) vs Zim, Patna, 1996

Highest Individual Score: S. Tikolo (96) vs SL, Kandy, 1996 **Best Bowling:** Maurice Odumbe (3-15) vs WI, Pune, 1996



... after what they did to the West Indies in 1996, it would be silly to ignore them. Lightweights yes, but beware the exuberance of young ambitious nations. In soccer-crazy Africa the game still struggles for sponsor and crowd support, yet passion has driven the careers of seam bowler Martin Suji, spinner Asif Karim, all-rounder Maurice Odumbe and batsmen Steve Tikolo and (new face) Ravindu Shah. Happy cricketers whose nothing-to-lose style should keep the opposition wary.



MAN TO WATCH

STEVE TIKOLO: Only Kenyan not wet behind the years last time (he played for South Africa's Border province). As a batsman he is Gulliver in a Lilliputian team. In 1996 he said, "You'll see what we're made of in the field," and then backed it up with fine batting. Carries with him a sticker that reads, "You're only as good as your next innings." Small man with something to prove.

	P	LAY	ER	SF	0 R	CONTRACT OF THE PARTY OF THE PA		l D	(I	P	99	100	
			BATT	ING					B	0 W	LING	+	
PLAYERS	M	R	Hs	Avg	100	50	Ct	Bails	R	W	Avg	Best	Econ
J. Angara	4	6	3*	6.00			-	132	137	2	68.50	1-19	8.22
A. Karlm	25	167	53	11.92	-	1	4	1217	844	23	36.69	5-33	4.16
D. Chudasama	19	432	122	24.00	1	1	3	-			~	-	-
S. Gupta	7	119	41	17.00	~		**	m	-	-		-	-
H. Modi	25	533	78*	28.05	~	4	6	12	14	0		-	7.00
T. Odoyo	24	275	41	14.47	~	-	6	954	797	20	39.85	3-25	5.01
M. Odumbe	25	593	83	28.23	417	5	3	917	720	19	37.89	3-14	4.71
K. Otieno	25	745	144	32.39	2	2	10	en .	ev		49		-
R. Shah	8	279	70	34.87	**	3	3	42	57	0	-	-	8.14
M. Sheikh	15	35	15*	7.00		-	8	597	456	17	26.82	4-38	4.58
M. Suji	23	48	15	8.00		-	9	1026	795	17	48.78	4-24	4.64
T. Suji	13	143	67	14.80	-	1	4	368	308	5	61.80	1-18	5.02
8. Tikolo	25	688	106*	31.27	1	5	13	716	603	17	35.47	3-28	5.05
A. Vadher	11	102	42*	20.40	70	-	5		-		del	=	-
J. Kamande	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			м	-	-

Team

Ranking 10

Statistics till April 18, 1999. Otieno has 5 stumpings. Odds by bookmakers William Hill. Ceat rankings as on April 21, 1999.



GROUP B: Pakistan, West Indies, Australia, Bangladesh, Scotland, New Zealand

The Odds: 4-1

Best Performance: Winner in 1992, semi-finalist in 1987

Highest Total: 338-5 (60) vs SL, Swansea, 1983 **Lowest Total:** 74 (40.2) vs Eng, Adelaide, 1992

Highest Individual Score: R. Raja (119*) vs NZ, Christchurch, 1992

Best Bowling: Abdul Qadir (5-44) vs SL, Leeds, 1983

The Truth is ...

...if Imran was captain they would be favourites to win. Aggressive, supremely talented, yet indisciplined. Shoaib Akhtar brings fresh menace to the world's best bowling attack (Akram, Saqlain, Younis, Mushtaq, Mahmood), and the batting is fiery too. Fielding remains inconsistent. Yet intra-team problems (who made match-fixing charges against whom) are bound to make things messy, especially when they lose matches they shouldn't. Already Javed Miandad has quit and cracks are appearing. Can their team spirit hold?



MAN TO WATCH

WASIM AKRAM: Remember how he made the ball move in the subcontinent? Imagine what he might do under heavy cloud cover. Took two deliveries (Allan Lamb, Chris Lewis) to win the 1992 World Cup for Pakistan; took two deliveries (Ramesh, Dravid) to win in Sharjah in April. Shaken by betting allegations, he is tested again. Wife Huma is a psychologist. Just as well.

	P	AY	ER	SF	0 R		0 1	LD	CU	P	99		
	union on or o		BATT	1 N G					B	0 W	LINE		
PLAYERS	M	R	Hs	Avg	100	50	Ct	Balls	R	W	Avg	Best	Econ
S. Afridi	82	1912	109	24.83	2	10	29	3428	2711	54	50.20	3-33	4.74
S. Anwar	170	6172	194	40.07	15	30	33	218	176	5	35.20	2-9	4.84
A. Mahmood	60	606	65*	17.31	-	2	19	2697	2018	53	38.07	5-38	4.48
I. Ahmed	227	5988	139*	33.08	10	32	82	632	474	5	94.80	2-31	4.50
Inzamam'Huq	182	5867	137*	39.37	6	41	47	40	52	2	26.00	1-4	7.80
M. Khan	129	1895	69*	23.98	+	6	117	elle	*	-	40	elle	-
M. Ahmed	130	343	26	9.02	-	-	28	6727	4842	144	33.62	5-36	4.31
A. Razzak	14	105	46*	11.66		-	1	532	462	14	33.00	3-48	5.21
S. Malik	279	7150	102	33.41	5	47	80	3505	2959	89	33.24	5-35	5.06
8. Mushtaq	98	468	30*	12.64	-	-	26	5137	3633	187	19.42	5-29	4.24
S. Akhtar	16	52	36	17.33		+	3	762	526	27	19.48	4-37	4.14
W. Younis	172	537	37	9.94	-	-	19	8561	6545	283	23.12	6-26	4.58
W. Akram	265	2676	86	15.64	-	6	70	13601	8716	371	23.49	5-15	3.84
W. Wasti	3	86	37	28.66	-		1	31	40	3	13.33	3-36	7.74
Y. Youhana	20	576	100	41.14	1	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-

CEA

Team

Ranking 3

Statistics till April 18, 1999. Moin has 45 stumpings. Odds by bookmakers William Hill. Ceat rankings as on April 21, 1999.



GROUP B: Pakistan, West Indies, Australia, Bangladesh, Scotland, New Zealand

Coach: Malcolm Marshall The Odds: 8-1

Best Performance: Winners: 1975, 1979; Runner-up: 1983

Highest Total: 350-4 (50) vs SL, Karachi, 1987 **Lowest Total:** 93 (35.2) vs Kenya, Pune, 1996

Highest Individual Score: Vivian Richards (181) vs SL, Karachi, 1987

Best Bowling: Winston Davis (7-51) vs Aus, Leeds, 1983

The Truth is ...

... without Brian Lara they're average, the batting just too unreliable. And one man, as Tendulkar with 523 runs proved last time, can't win a tournament alone. Ambrose and Walsh, experienced in English conditions, will give their batsmen a chance, but odds are they won't take it. Oldies like Simmons have returned and Arthurton who will raise the fielding standard is back too. The West Indies salvaged pride recently against Australia, yet the arrogance has gone and so too the probability of victory.



MAN TO WATCH

SHIVNARINE CHANDERPAUL: If Lara is the moody poet, he is the everyday workman. Quiet and withdrawn, he may be an interviewer's nightmare, but with Hooper quitting, the others unpredictable, his dependability is a captain's delight. Once, just knocked the ball for singles. Now coming up the order (opening too), after a brief rest forced by injury, he can hit it as big as the rest of them.

	P	LAY	RR	S	0 R	W	0 1		CU	P	99		
			BAII	I N G					B	0 W	LING		
PLAYERS	M	R	Hs	Avg	100	50	Ct	Balls	R	W	Avg	Best	Econ
J. Adams	78	1217	82	29.68	-	8	50	834	668	22	30.38	5-37	4.80
C. Ambrose	160	615	31*	11.38	-	-	42	8530	5007	212	23.90	5-17	3.56
K. Arthurton	101	1882	84	26.50	-	9	27	1300	1080	41	28.34	4-31	4.98
H. Bryan	3	6	8	3.00	-		m	162	115	4	28.75	4-24	4.25
8. Campbell	42	1026	86	24,42	-	5	10	400	-		*	df	-
8. Chan'paul	63	1918	150	34.21	2	12	20	538	489	12	39.08	3-18	5.23
M. Dillon	13	20	13*	20.00	-	-	1	659	529	18	29.38	4-20	4.81
R. Jacobs	20	132	20	11.00	-	-	21	er .			-		
R. King	10	39	12*	39.00		-	2	552	373	11	33.80	3-40	4.05
B. Lara	141	5628	189	45.02	12	37	64	30	34	2	17.00	2-5	8.80
N. Perry	3	17	9	17.00		m	-	116	85	5	17.00	3-45	4.39
P. Simmons	137	3647	122	29.41	5	18	53	3622	2715	78	35.72	4-3	4.49
C. Walsh	187	295	30	7.19		-	27	9886	6386	205	31.15	5-1	3.87
S. Williams	50	1530	105*	33.26	1	12	11	24	30	1	30.00	1-30	7.50

CEAT

Team

Ranking 9

Statistics till April 18, 1999. Jacobs has 6 stumpings. Odds by bookmakers William Hill. Ceat rankings as on April 21, 1999.

A USTRALIA

GROUP B: Pakistan, West Indies, Australia, Bangladesh, Scotland, New Zealand

Coach: Geoff Marsh The Odds: 3-1

Best Performance: Winner in 1987, runner-up in 1975

Highest Total: 328-5 (60) vs SL, The Oval, 1975 **Lowest Total:** 129 (38.2) vs Ind, Chelmsford, 1983

Highest Individual Score: M. Waugh (130) vs Ken, Vis'patnam, 1996

Best Bowling: Gary Gilmour (6-14) vs Eng, Leeds, 1975

The Truth is ...

... in a long hard tournament where every match counts, it's tough to look past them. Solid batsmen (the Waughs, Gilchrist, Lehmann), a range of all-rounders (Lee, Bevan, Moody, Martyn, Julian) and experienced bowlers (Warne, McGrath, Reiffel) make them perfectly-balanced on paper. Look good at least for the semis, but as Sri Lanka showed in 1996 (and Tendulkar in Sharjah last year) they can be beaten, though it takes a performance. Weakness is their predictability; strong men but with a familiar approach.



MAN TO WATCH

ADAM GILCHRIST: The white man's Jayasuriya, the charging left-hander gives the Australian innings the early impetus it requires. At the Adelaide Cricket Academy they swear he should be in the team just on his batting. A wicket-keeper's keen eye helps him launch into the bowling, using orthodox and unorthodox strokes, especially over point and mid-wicket. Once set, he's trouble.

	P	IAY	E R	SF	0 R	W	0 1	RLD	CU	P	99		
			BATT	ING					В	8 W	LING	+	
PLAYERS	M	R	Hs	Avg	100	50	Ct	Balls	R	W	Avg	Best	Econ
M. Bevan	101	3405	108*	63.05	3	24	39	1496	1235	30	41.16	3-36	4.95
A. Dale	24	56	15*	18.66	-	-	9	1272	821	27	30.40	3-18	3.87
D. Fleming	48	32	5*	5.33	-	-	6	2549	1868	80	23.35	5-36	4.39
A. Gilchrist	55	1747	154	35.65	5	5	63	-	-	-	-	-	-
B. Julian	21	164	35	11.71	-	-	7	978	854	22	38.81	3-40	5.23
S. Lee	20	220	41	15.71	-	-	11	741	536	18	29.77	5-33	4.34
D. Lehmann	42	1288	110*	37.88	2	7	7	384	340	8	42.50	2-11	5.31
B. Martyn	33	629	59*	26.20	-	3	7	148	128	1	128.00	1-30	5.18
G. McGrath	86	49	10	4.08	-	-	11	4613	3085	122	25.28	5-40	4.01
T. Moody	60	1019	89	20.79	-	8	16	2107	1526	37	41.24	3-39	4.34
R. Ponting	70	2522	145	40.67	5	14	16	84	62	1	62.00	1-41	4.42
P. Reiffel	85	502	58	14.76	-	1	24	4378	2844	99	28.72	4-13	3.89
S. Warne	112	557	55	11.85	-	1	40	6308	4401	177	24.86	5-33	4.18
M. Waugh	178	6205	130	38.78	11	40	69	3213	2559	80	31.98	5-24	4.77
S. Waugh	255	5734	102*	30.50	1	34	86	8516	6432	186	34.58	4-33	4.53

CEAT

Team

Ranking

Statistics till April 18, 1999. Gilchrist has 11 stumpings. Odds by bookmakers William Hill. Ceat rankings as on April 21, 1999.

H B

GROUP B: Pakistan, West Indies, Australia, Bangladesh, Scotland, New Zealand

Coach: GORDON GREENIDGE The Odds: 750-1

Best Performance: Beat Kenva in ICC Trophy final

The Truth is ...

... they'll find it tough to win a game. In true subcontinental style, they bat well, bowl decently and fumble in the field. And tour badly. Last summer they lost every game they played in England. Not being given a chance to play in the mini World Cup in Dhaka last year was a great opportunity lost.



MAN TO WATCH

AMIN-UL-ISLAM: A pleasing player, impressive pedigree. Stocky and soft-spoken, he is a cultured bat who rarely sloas. The best ever to emerge from his nation.

BATTING BOWLING R **PLAYERS** R Hs 100 50 Ct Balis Ava Best Econ M Avg 26 639 65 26.62 4 7 141 162 1 162.00 1-24 6.89 M. Khan 304 305 A. islam 26 530 70 25.23 2 9 5 61.00 3-57 6.01 8.27 3 636 546 7 78.00 2-46 5.15 91 18 E. Hoque 16 1 5 89 **57** 17.80 1 F. Ahmed 4 901 885 22 40.22 4-56 5.89 H. Hassan 20 121 21 7.5R 182 47 1 526 382 11 34.72 2-12 4.35 K. Mahmud 11 18.20 1* 1 1 36 43 1 43.00 1-43 7.16 M. Islam 27* 16 K. Mashud 20 162 11.57 805 45.28 3-55 237 77 14.81 1 3 679 15 5.06 M. Rafique 16 1 M. Hossain 5 207 101 41.40 1 1 2 426 404 44.88 2-39 5.69 M. Abedin 23 328 45 14.90 9 N. Rehman 12 170 47 15.45 5 388 339 5 67.80 2-51 5.24 4 4* 48 1-46 1 46 1 46.00 5.75 N. Rashid 1 S. Ahmed 8 17 11 5.66 375 303 10 30.30 3-42 4.84 2 S. Hussain 10 214 95 21.40 4

Team Ranking

Statistics till April 18, 1999. Mashud has 2 stumpings. Odds by bookmakers William Hill. Ceat rankings as on April 21, 1999.



GROUP B: Pakistan, West Indies, Australia, Bangladesh, Scotland, New Zealand

Coach: JIM LOVE The Odds: 500-1

Best Performance: Beat Ireland to third place in ICC Trophy to qualify

PLAYERS FOR WORLD CUP 1999

G. Salmond M. Allingham

J. Blain

J. Brinkley

A. Butt

Davies N. Dyer

B. Patterson

I. Phillip

K. Sheridan

M. Smith I. Stanger

P. Steindl G. Williamson

G. Hamilton

NEW ZEALAND

GROUP B: Pakistan, West Indies, Australia, Bangladesh, Scotland, New Zealand

Coach: Steve Rixon **The Odds:** 14-1 **Best Performance:** Semi-finalist in 1992

Highest Total: 309-5 (60) vs EA, Birmingham, 1975

Lowest Total: 158 (52.2) vs WI. The Oval, 1975

Highest Individual Score: G. Turner (171*) vs EA, Birmingham, 1975

Best Bowling: Richard Hadlee (5-25) vs SL, Bristol, 1983

The Truth is

... no visitor will enjoy the conditions more. And therefore adapt as quickly. They will need every advantage, for this team (which once had a Hadlee and a Crowe) boasts no stunning talent but only reasonable ones. Captain Fleming has flair, Horne and Astle enjoy having a dash and Harris and Larsen remain misers at heart—if all the pieces of the jigsaw fit (and a dull team finds some personality) it may be enough to edge out the West Indies for third place into the Super Six. Self-belief is the key for such a team.



CEAT

Team

Ranking 8

MAN TO WATCH

CHRIS HARRIS: Played the most heroic yet tragic of innings in the 1996 World Cup quarter-finals, scoring 130 in 124 balls, yet losing the match. And he's a bowler—a dibbly-dobbly type of bowler who appears amiable on television but batsmen will confirm that is not true. A lively character, vastly experienced, and one of the world's finest fielders.

	P	AY	BR	SF	0 R	The second secon	0 1	RLD.	OU	P	99		
			BATT	ING					3	0 W	LING		
PLAYERS	M	R	Hs	Avg	100	50	Ct	Balls	R	W	Avg	Best	Econ
G. Allott	13	14	7*	4.66	500	-	4	582	485	23	21.08	4-35	5.00
N. Astie	82	2768	120	35.48	6	17	29	2434	1813	54	33.57	4-44	4.48
C. Bulfin	3	9	7*	9.00	-	-	1	66	78	-	-	-	7.09
C. Cairns	101	2341	115	26.90	2	12	31	4012	3077	94	32.73	5-42	4.60
S. Doull	40	173	22	12.35	-	-	10	1673	1397	34	41.08	4-25	5.01
S. Fleming	100	2848	116*	32.36	3	16	46	29	28	1	28.00	1-8	5.78
C. Harris	127	2317	130	30.89	1	9	46	5875	4157	121	34.35	5-42	4-24
M. Hart	11	49	16	8.16	-	-	7	548	347	13	26.69	5.22	3.78
M. Horne	36	641	61	18.85	-	3	10	-	**	-	-	-	-
G. Larsen	113	599	37	14.26	-	-	22	5912	3737	107	34.92	4-24	3.78
C. McMillan	39	911	86	25.30	-	5	11	587	482	16	30.12	2-17	4.92
D. Nash	57	435	40*	14.50	-	-	17	2450	1938	47	41.23	4-38	4.74
A. Parere	114	2670	108	30.00	1	13	63	-	-	-	-	-	-
R. Twose	36	969	92	30.28	-	7	11	272	237	4	59.25	2-31	5.22
D. Vettori	38	188	25*	12.53	-	-	10	1461	1176	27	43.55	4-49	4.82

Statistics till April 18, 1999. Adam Parore has 17 stumpings, Odds are by William Hill. Ceat rankings as on April 21, 1999.

Cricket is in good

By Peter Roebuck

ricket reflects its age. The battle to preserve the values of yesterday is futile. Slowly the rougher side has been let loose. Inevitably cricket has become more aggressive. It is not an island unto itself. Muggings are a part of life in the Caribbean and dishonest dealing is not unknown in the subcontinent. People are not prepared to live by convention. Only by rules vigorously applied. Lord of the Flies is not merely a story about children, it speaks of mankind.

For a time cricket was a refuge but those were days when religion was strong and children obedient. Now times are more complicated. It is not all bad. More notice is taken of rights and abuses. Cricketers are not bound by ancient codes any more than women or children or the dispossessed. Not that the old ways have collapsed entirely. Batsmen still leave the field first and are congratulated by their opponents upon reaching a landmark. Inevitably cricket is more materialistic. It could hardly be otherwise. A man cannot feed his children on honour. Nor are cricketers so foolish that they do not realise their power. They can see the crowds and count the takings. Sooner or later the monopoly

GAME ENDURES IN THIS HANDSHAKE EXTENDED BY

THE SPIRIT OF THE

INDIAN PLAYERS TO

JAYASURIYA AFTER HIS 340 IN COLOMBO.

> of the administrators was bound to be broken. And it is a fine thing. I have seen too many former sportsmen wearing the tattered vest of poverty.

> > Of course, old stagers will tut-tut and say the game has changed and "not for the better either". Regrettably the game has lacked the strength to confront its faults and diplomacy has appeared where decision belongs. But it is always easy to see the bad points. They stand out like bruised apples in a cart. In



PRADEEP MANDHANI

TIMES ARE NOT ALL
BAD. PAKISTAN AND
INDIA HAVE RESUMED
THEIR RIVALRY. MATCHES
ARE PLAYED HARD BUT A
MUTUAL RESPECT LINGERS.

NOT ALL
N AND
ESUMED
Y. MATCHES

Cricket's
doors have
opened. From
a preserve
of the elite,
it is becoming
a game of
the people.



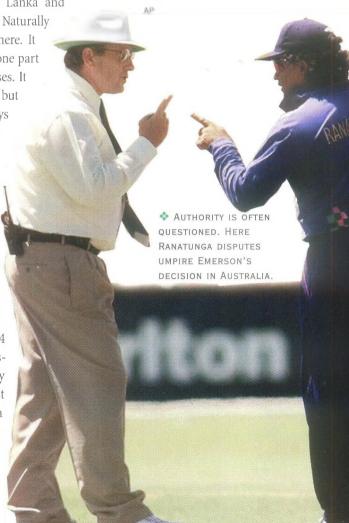
any case the past is not all laddoos and lassi—recent biographies have shown that Percy Chapman was a drinker, Wally Hammond a philanderer whilst Jack White, England's spinner in the 1920s, picked the seam so high that colleagues did not want to field to him for fear of cutting their hands. Cricket need not be too defensive. It is an athletic game with breathtaking fielding, adventurous batting and all sorts of bowling. Money has not spoilt the game, it has released it. No longer does the game frown on promise. And yet the spirit endures. Sachin Tendulkar is not merely concerned with his bank balance.

Cricket need not be apologetic. Consider the current state of play. India and Pakistan have resumed sporting contacts. George Orwell said sport was a substitute for war. Perhaps it can also be a replacement. It goes further. A Muslim is captaining India, an imperfect gentleman to be sure and he is not alone in that. A Christian is playing for Pakistan, the fourth in its history. Any time now there will be one in the Australian side!

ackground does not matter either. The game is a lot more democratic. Youngsters from humble subcontinental villages have fought their way into the national team. The doors have opened. Cricket used to be the preserve of the select; it is becoming a game of the people. Actually it started that way as roughnecks, gamblers and clerics met on patches of ground to enjoy their sport in the colourful days before Victorian headmasters took hold of it. Colour does not matter either. Zimbabwe have several black cricketers in their team and a Matabele boy is captaining their under-19 side. It's been harder in South Africa but a few months ago a coloured man scored a Test double hundred against New Zealand. Such things were beyond contemplation in the good old days. Obviously cricket has not caused these changes but it has played its part.

And the game is spreading. Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe have joined the top table. Naturally the game is struggling here and there. It resembles an old engine. As soon as one part is fixed, another makes strange noises. It has been lying low in the West Indies but there are signs of revival. Everyone says the game is dying out, no one talks about anything else.

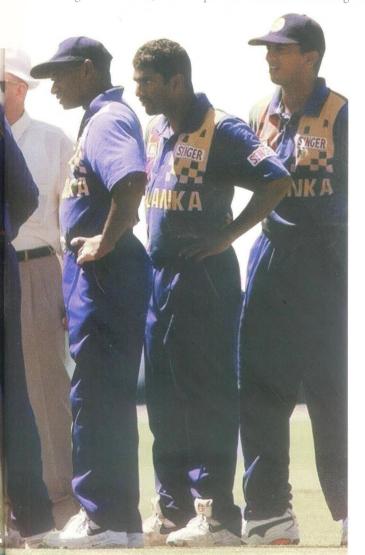
On the field too cricket flourishes. Hardly a Test match is drawn. Fast bowling is stronger in the past 20 years than ever before. Leg-spinners have returned to remind us of the game's infinite possibilities. Cricket hasn't changed all that much. It can be rude and polite, mean and generous. And it can still be sporting. Last year Mark Taylor's 334 equalled the highest score in the history of Australian cricket. He promptly declared because it was in the interest of his side. His successor supports a leper colony near Calcutta. Cricket may have lost some of its soul. But its spirit remains intact.



... Well not COMPLETELY

By Rohit Brijnath

t is a season that pleads for renewal. For a World Cup shorn of controversy and complete with character. This is not to be alarmist but lately cricket hasn't carried itself well. It is not in tatters but it is stained. When Mark Taylor retired on 334 against Pakistan, we were quick to embrace him. A knight whose armour still shone. Taylor himself may have laughed soft-



ly. As he said later, "If a ball had come along I would have scored and passed Bradman." He was humble, we were not. We forgot to ask ourselves why gallantry had vanished, why Taylor's simple gesture (he merely put team ahead of self) was considered an act of God. One man's nobility does not absolve a game of its sins; the desire to win and decency are not virtues in conflict.

Cricket has lost its moral tone. Fielders leap wildly for catches that aren't, scoop up half-volleys and claim them as clean. Even though television will reveal their slyness. Players say, "Everyone does it." It's akin to athletes lining up to buy syringes, explaining they must ingest drugs to stay with the pack. It is explained too easily as a fault of the times we live in; where the result (did you win?) has surpassed the process (did you win fairly?). My father asks, whatever happened to honouring your craft? When players score centuries they ignore the gallery, first pointing their bats at the players' pavilion. It is a new world Dad, you are tempted to say.

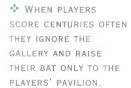
Not true. When the game ends and the teams go home, baseball legend Cal Ripken is still there, standing for hours and signing autographs. It can be done. Yet loyalties in cricket reflect a different value system. A soft-drink sponsor once explained that his star player was a fine human being. Why? Because on a plane he refused to drink the only soft drink available because it wasn't the one he endorsed.

Cricket smells bad. At a time when Mike Tyson lunched on an opponent's ear why should cricket be clean? We hardly



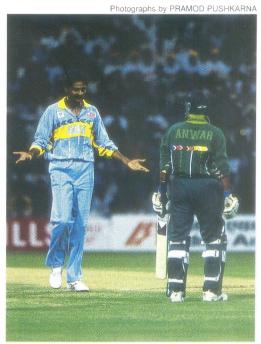
Fielders scoop
half-volleys
and claim
catches even
though TV
will reveal
their slyness.











SOMETIMES THE SPIRIT IS FORGOTTEN, THE GAME OVERTAKEN BY DARKER PASSIONS. IN THE 1996 WORLD CUP ANWAR KNOCKS SRINATH WITH HIS BAT. SRINATH ASKS WHY BUT GETS NO SATISFACTORY ANSWER.

even play in virginal white anymore. Yet cricket can learn. The International Olympic Committee's greed has tarnished forever the world's biggest sporting movement. What now of cricket? Matchfixing and betting are not just about betrayal; no, it eats into the very heart of the game.

The essence of sport (and we see this clearest in one-day cricket) is unpredictability. It is the energy that drives all athletic competition. Pete Sampras returns to win from two sets to love down; Carl Lewis wins Olympic gold on his final jump. In the same way Sachin Tendulkar delivers an over beyond belief to shatter South African dreams. When match-fixing takes hold these uncommon acts lose their heroic dimension. Who paid whom to lose? It demeans great performances and young boys grow up believing cricket is not the game it is supposed to be. Sport needs men of imagination to direct them, to provide ambition. Cricket does not have enough of them.

n Australia, Muthiah Muralitharan is set upon by the crowd. They chant "Noooo" with every delivery he bowls, their taunts relentless. They will build fences there one day, but like Calcutta bad behaviour has no barrier. Even now, months after that tour, a disquiet lingers. Did Murali chuck, should he play, can a bowler cleared by the ICC be embarrassed by a righteous umpire? No satisfactory answer is available. Not much it seems is hunky-dory. As young men are lured by basketball dreams, cricket flounders in the West Indies. It is important for cricket that they keep a majestic tradition alive, for we forget only nine nations fight for world supremacy. One-day cricket too is played endlessly, often without purpose, the matches leaving no memory. Cricket has no focus.

There is divide too in cricket and don't let men fool you otherwise. A captain leads his team off the field and we cheer because he is standing up for the brown man. An English player walks past Ranatunga and utters a terrible obscenity. The match referee is informed of the incident, yet inexplicably no action is taken. Everyone has a complaint. An Indian tour manager recalls his displeasure when a match referee "talked down to us as if he were lecturing schoolchildren". Yes, not all is despairing. As we say in the subcontinent, Tendulkar is there, *bhai*. But one man cannot keep a game's spirits up indefinitely. The World Cup is cricket on its biggest stage. It is a fine time for a great game to sprout clean wings.

The Mental CALL

FIELDING CLOSE IN IS RISKY. GUTSY KEITH
STACKPOLE FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY ON THE
1973 CARIBBEAN TOUR.

By Sanjay Manjrekar

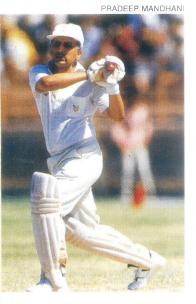
can never forget the moment when Sunil Gavaskar walked up to me in Trinidad in 1989. He shook hands with me and said, "You've become a man now." I had scored a hundred in my previous Test at Barbados and though I was in my early 20s it didn't take me

long to understand what he meant. West Indies in the early '80s were a team of giants. To score a century against them, in their own backyard, needed more than talent. Gavaskar reckoned it needed a strong mindset or what is better known these days as "mental tough-

ness". Boys couldn't do that, only men could. After that moment I felt taller. I was young and felt I could do no wrong thereafter. Later I realised there were still a lot of things I could do wrong.

I idolised players like Gavaskar and Javed Miandad. They seemed to work hard "mentally" and appealed to me more than the naturally talented cricketers who despite their gifts couldn't perform. These men delivered when it counted most. Unfortunately as a young player I couldn't—I was known as a player good for just 40 runs.

It all changed one evening as I watched the trials for the Bombay University team. I was a certainty, yet selector Milind Rege mentioned I needed to score a heap of runs for the team. "You have to concentrate more,"he said, and I winced. This was a phrase that had been tossed at me repeatedly and, frustrated, I burst out, "Everybody is telling me to concentrate. But what should I do?" Rege carefully chose his words: "As a batsman you should try and play each and every delivery as correctly as possible. You should not give a single delivery less than your 100 per cent application." He was telling me to be tough mentally. He was right too. I scored six consecutive hundreds soon after and in three years was knocking on the doors of Test cricket. But the lessons



TALENTED, BUT THE STEELY GAVASKAR WOULD PERFORM WHEN IT MATTERED MOST.

were far from over. I was too soon to be educated about the "fear of failure", something which seems to afflict a number of Indian cricketers.

In the late '80s, during a Deodhar Trophy match, West Zone were on a roll and when the 45th over began I was still waiting to bat. I was slated to go in at No. 4 but I started thinking I was in a no-win situation. A situation Ajay Jadeja faces so often and amazingly excels: not enough overs to make a decent contribution and great chances of failure when you have to throw your bat around. Consumed by the thought of failure I told West Zone vice-captain Lalchand Rajput of my reluctance to bat in the end overs. He agreed but his disapproval was clear.

At nets a week later in Mumbai I smashed a ball from Ravi Shastri into the stands. Imagine my shock when Shastri screamed at me, "Why couldn't you have tried to do that in the Deodhar game?" The news had travelled fast and I was embarrassed. Later Ravi took me aside and said I should look to bat whenever possible. More outings in the middle simply meant more chances of success. I had instead avoided an innings and made my "fear of failure" obvious—in Mumbai this was a sin. Yet I was lucky. Rege, Shastri and Sandeep Patil would repeatedly drill into me the importance of being

A BOUNCER HURLED AT

150 KMPH CAN LEAVE YOU WITH A BLOODIED FACE.

DEAN JONES' TECHNIQUE

FAILS HIM AGAINST

ENGLAND IN 1989.

khadoos—our local slang for being mentally tough.
I'm not sure whether other young Indians are as lucky, being force-fed reminders on mental toughness. The Indian team certainly needs an education on the subject. I'd like them to be described as "tough and competitive" rather than the usual "talented and skillful".

than the usual "talented and skillful".

Mental toughness is not necessarily obvious. Sometimes it is just a silent battle being played out in a bowler's mind. During the 1996 World Cup, Javagal Srinath and Venkatesh Prasad confessed to me that since matches were often decided in the first 15 overs, it was a difficult period for them. Yet they triumphed. Like in the India-Pakistan match

*avoided

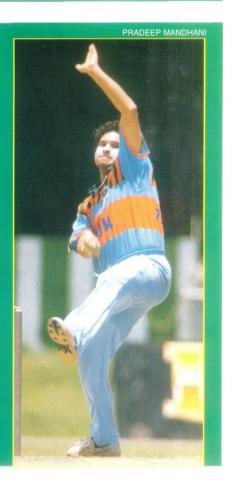
I avoided an innings once and made my fear of failure obvious. In Mumbai this was a sin.



Guts and GLORY

Javed Miandad's last ball six: In Sharjah, 1986, Pakistan were chasing India's score of 245 for 7. With one over to go Pakistan (235/7) needed 11 runs. Off the first ball of Chetan Sharma's over, Wasim Akram was run out trying an impossible second run (236/8). Javed Miandad swung the next ball for four (240/8) and then took a single off the third ball (241/8). On the fourth ball Sharma bowled wicket-keeper Zulqarnain (241/9) and when Tauseef Ahmed took a single off the fifth delivery (242/9), Pakistan still needed four runs to win. On the final ball, Sharma bowled a full toss and Miandad slammed the ball into the stands for six. Pakistan had won.

Sachin's last over: India had been bowled out for 195 in the 1993 Hero Cup, and now South Africa (190/8) required a mere six runs from the last over. Who would bowl it? Amazingly, the 20-year-old Sachin Tendulkar was asked to bowl the final over. On the first ball Fanie de Villiers was run out attempting a second run (191/9). Off the next three deliveries, Tendulkar didn't allow Allan Donald to take a run. Eventually Donald scored a single off the fifth delivery (192/9) leaving Brian McMillan to score four off the last ball. Tendulkar bowled, McMillan swung, but he managed only one run and India won.



IN ONE PULSATING
OVER THE PART-TIME
BOWLER SHOWED THAT
IT'S NOT JUST SKILL BUT
MENTAL TOUGHNESS THAT
WINS CRUCIAL MATCHES.

in Bangalore, where Prasad kept his composure when threatened by Aamir Sohail.

A batsman's toughness is also sometimes just about staying there till the end. During the India-Pakistan encounter at the 1992 World Cup we were jubilant after a few quick Pakistani wickets fell. Till Miandad came in and told Sohail, "*Inka josh zyada der nahi rahega* (their excitement will stay for a little while only so let's hang around)." And he did.

hough India won that match we have been less than convincing playing Pakistan in Sharjah. If the match starts going Pakistan's way, we think "Oh they will win again". We retreat from the challenge. We have had our share of players who excelled under pressure but not too many of them have played together at one time. The solution is to pick players with reputations as team men—when the team struggles, these men are most useful.

Psychologists help too, but as I found, only to a certain extent. Improvement requires an individual effort. You have to start enjoying the moments of success that are achieved in pressure situations—this builds character. The result is the Indian cricket team is not looked at as the front-runner in the coming World Cup. Even the World Cup 1983 triumph in England does not quite change the way the world thinks. But the team should ignore this and remember even our 1983 heroes weren't considered favourites. We saw Balwinder Sandhu's miracle ball, Kapil Dev's catch off Richards, Jimmy Amarnath's all-round class. But what we didn't see was what Gavaskar told me once: "In that team we had a whole lot of players with big hearts."

It is a point to be noted by the '99 Indian team. Only men with stout hearts can last the distance.



in pressure situations helps build character.



Now players

are greeted with Mexican waves. In '48 **Bradman just** got standing ovations.

By Swapan Dasgupta

fter Easter, the English start behaving a little oddly. At the first hint of spring, it's off with the bloated duffle-coat, the sun-roof of the convertible and time for bare-bodied devilry. It's no longer a pint of bitter and the football pools. It's the time the average inhibited Briton takes to pints of chilled lager on the footpath outside the watering hole and dreaming about that long-planned Mediterranean holiday. It's the time of lengthening shadows, droves of Italian tourists loitering aimlessly below Eros in Piccadilly, jugs of Pimms with lashings of lemonade and a very different sound. The sound of leather against willow.

I exaggerate. It's Cool Britannia and it's not all that idyllic. Cricket, as someone wrote for the benefit of my generation, "is a game that is forever the thirties". Unfortunately, not any longer.

Yes, there was a time when the English actually behaved like the two eccentric gentlemen in Alfred Hitchcock's The Lady Vanishes, obsessed with cricket scores. There was a time when all well-brought-up English kids digested that evocative passage

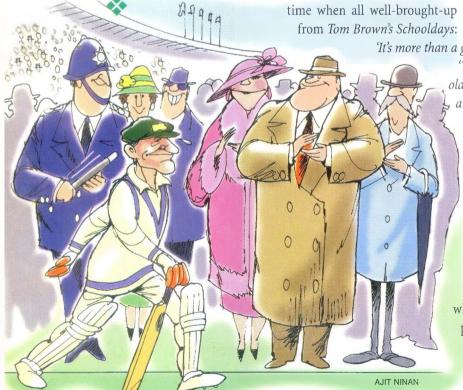
'It's more than a game. It's an institution," said Tom.

'Yes," said Arthur, "the birthright of British boys, old and young, as habeas corpus and trial by jury are to British men."

There indeed was a time when cricket was a metaphor for life. When you could, without fear of inviting strange looks and ridicule, repeat "Play up! play up! and play the game". When the venerable Master of the Rolls Lord Denning could begin his learned judgement in Miller vs Jackson (1977) with the observation: "In summertime, village cricket is a delight to everyone."

It all seems so long ago. As long ago as the time when a smart catch would prompt an encouraging pat on the back from the team rather than trigger an unseemly war dance in the middle of the

field. As long ago as the time E.A.S. Prasanna



of Change

would tease a batsman out and the job of the opening batsman was to take the shine off the new ball.

There is little percentage in nostalgia. There is even less cheer from mourning the end of cricket as we knew it. The Test match survives, precariously, on the subsidies of the real thing—the one-dayer. And this year, when the finalists clash at Lord's, they won't even play in whites. It will not merely be a clash of titans—as the clichetic headlines will pronounce it—it will be a blend of civilisations. The headquarters of the old order hosting the cricket of the next millennium.

For those of us who readily imbibed the culture of post-war English cricket with all the zealousness of the colonial convert, it won't be the same. It won't be an abrupt break either. The sounds of cricket have been changing. The standing ovation that brought tears to Don Bradman's eyes at The Oval in 1948—it is said to have made him misread Hollies' googly—was replaced in the summer of 1976.

read Hollies' googly—was replaced in the summer of 1976 by a boisterous West Indian "home" crowd clanging pebbles inside empty beer cans

and telling Tony Greig to "grovel". Two years later Mike Brearley was taunted by a Yorkshire crowd, "We know you can read and write Brearley." Four years later came the Mexican wave and almost simultaneously entered the lager louts. A possible West Indian encounter with either India or Pakistan at The Oval will be as scary for the feeble-hearted as a football game involving Chelsea or Millwall.

In the past, even as the larger cricket grounds became less wholesome, the purist could take refuge in his armchair. Switch on the TV, put the volume on mute, tune the radio to Test Match Special and allow yourself to be taken to the soothing world of Brian Johnston and John Arlott. Test Match Special wasn't merely commentary, it was literature, complete with elaborate sub-plots centred on red double-decker buses rolling down Vauxhall Road and the plum cake lovingly despatched by the old lady from Shropshire.

Summers, former prime minister and cricket buff John Major said on Johnston's death, will never be the same. This year, it may be positively different. Sybil Ruscoe is going to be the first

Pure bliss. TV
on mute and
Test Match
Special on
the radio.

woman cricket presenter for Channel 4. That's a welcome change. Not welcome are the spurious assumptions behind the change. "The trouble with Test Match Special for me," she told *The Daily Telegraph* in April, "is that I've always felt a little bit excluded from it ... You know what I'm saying. If you went to a secondary modern school and you are a woman and if you haven't played Test cricket, then you felt excluded from the coverage."

That's absolute poppycock. But it's also typical of a new England that wants to reinvent itself in a democratic and multicultural way. *Anyone But England* was the title of a book by an American Trotskyist on the English "malaise" called cricket. It stinks. Post-colonialism is all wrong, about as

wrong as Trotsky's desire to grow wheat at Lord's. Cricket was invented in an age of abundant leisure; it has been reshaped to suit the urgency of the age.

"Why must it change?" the exiled Communist spy Guy

Burgess says in Alan Bennett's An Englishman Abroad

on being told that London has changed, "Why

must anything change?"

Why indeed? My England suffers from a time warp. It has remained frozen

to the time a rainy interruption meant black and white footage from the BBC archives. The time the streaker ran across the pitch. The time an exciting afternoon off meant watching Barry Richards and Gordon Greenidge open for Hampshire against Surrey. The time you could impress a girl-friend at a Test match by revealing that the leg glance was the Jam Sahib's contribution to the game. And the time you could walk in to the Member's Bar on

the strength of your discounted, outstation Surrey membership

and tell the old colonel next to you "only an Indian can understand Jardine" with complete nonchalance. Still, it will be worth the while to be in England this summer. I haven't been to South Africa or New Zealand, where they say there are tiny corners that are forever England. But if there is one spectator's paradise, it remains England. The World Cup began there in 1975 and after an unnecessary bout of globe-trotting has returned home. More than the concrete hot house of the 1987 final at Eden Gardens it's the image of jubilant fans rushing tricolour in hand in 1983 that remains etched in our memory. Looking forward to an exhilarating English summer mustn't be equated with the fortunes of the uninspiring England team. The state of the national side reflects the national character. And the national character in England no longer has a place for a Compton, May, Dexter and Gower. But just as London has transcended the nation-state, the England of Lord's, Canterbury and Hove has withstood Margaret Thatcher's market depredations and Tony Blair's modernity. Just step out of the train, lunch box, thermos flask and *Wisden* in hand. Forget the incongruous coloured apparel in front. Ignore the monster sitting next to you. Look steadfastly ahead, soak in the sun, watch the lengthening shadows, await the inevitable drizzle and think of cricket. It's not the game we

My England
has remained
frozen to the
time the
streaker ran
on the pitch.



thought it was. But it's the only thing we have.

My girlfriends can't stop talking about their favourite discotheque.

(My home.)





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THE 1983 WORLD CUP The DISSIPATION OF THE 1983 WORLD CUP THE 1984 WORL



In 1983 no
one felt we
could win.
Friends said
we had come
on a picnic.



■ By Kapil Dev

ven though 16 years have gone by, every time a World Cup is in the offing all of us automatically go back to 1983. Every time I am asked about the historic tournament I always have something to say. There are so many memories that I think I have never relived the entire experience. These days tele-

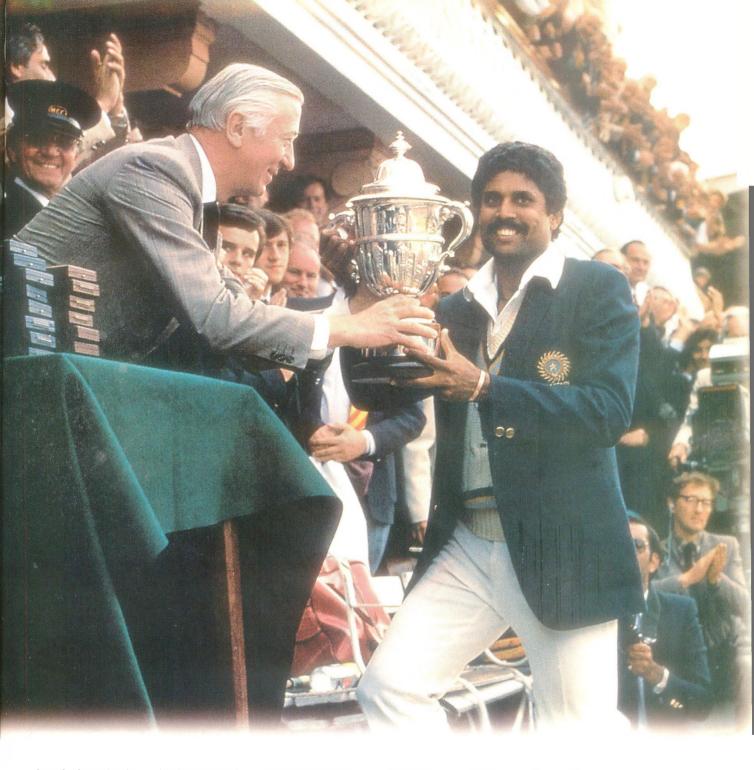
vision evokes so much nostalgia. I see myself as a gawky 22-year-old holding aloft the prized cup that no one expected us to win and wonder how it all began.

The best thing that happened to us was that we toured the West Indies prior to the World Cup. Because in a one-day match in Guyana (on Holi), we became the first team to beat the West Indies in West Indies. I remember we flew to the venue in a helicopter with our wives and got the shock of our lives when we disembarked in front of a full stadium. Anyway, we won that match much to the joy of all the expatriates who celebrated Holi with us. I think our confidence began to slowly build from there.

When we landed in England for the World Cup nobody expected us to even qualify. Our friends (even other cricketers) mentioned we were there for a picnic. It was taken for granted we would get



Photographs by PATRICK EAGAR



knocked out in the preliminaries, and we even got invitations suggesting that once we were free (knocked out) we should get together. Considering our record there was not much we could say except mumble under our breath. So there I was, this 22-year-old, with players more than 10 years older than me playing under me. I had seen Sunil Gavaskar, Mohinder Amarnath, Syed Kirmani and Madan Lal play when I was a kid in shorts in Chandigarh. They would make me or break me. I was fortunate enough to get their support and as a youngster I did not have to do that much thinking because I had this solid, mature think tank behind me.

We won our very first match against the West Indies. Still no one gave us even an outside chance. The second turning point came against Zimbabwe. We were so sure we would win that during the team meeting we didn't talk about winning but scoring 350 runs so that if we lost to Australia we

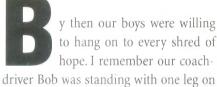
A DREAM COMES
TRUE. BUT WHILE KAPIL
LED INDIA'S CHARGE, HIS
WITE ROMI WAS HACK IN
THE HOTEL, TOO SCARED
TO WATCH THE FINAL



THE SMILING
ASSASSIN. JIMMY'S ALLROUND SKILLS WON HIM
MAN OF THE MATCH
AWARDS IN THE SEMIFINAL AND THE FINAL.

would still make it to the semis. You can imagine our state when we were 9 for 4 and 17 for 5. So dire was our situation that Madan's wife and my wife were just climbing the stairs to the stadium when a teammate advised them to return to the hotel. He was wanting to save them the anguish of seeing us get beaten.

All the big guns were out when I went in. I had no option but to try and change my normally aggressive technique and try and last out the 60 overs. I had to psyche myself into just staying there. At lunch we were close to 130 and there were barely any boundaries in my 50. I was playing totally against my natural game (thank the Lord it worked). At that moment all we wanted to do was to save face—we would have been happy with 180. After lunch as we slowly began to stabilise the frequency of the runs increased—in fact we amassed 100 runs in the last seven or eight overs.



a chair when I went in. As the innings consolidated he got more superstitious and stood in that position for my entire innings. I wonder how he drove us back after that. Sunil too was leaning against the bar counter in fright. He was so scared that if he changed position I would be out. And poor Yash (Yashpal Sharma) had his legs crossed for the entire innings. In retrospect it was hilarious but at the time each one was doing his best to keep me at the crease. Sadly, since the BBC was understaffed because of some problem in the organisation, our game was sacrificed, there was no television recording of my knock of 175 not out. Nobody except those who were at the ground have seen it. I think that has made it somewhat more magical and mysterious

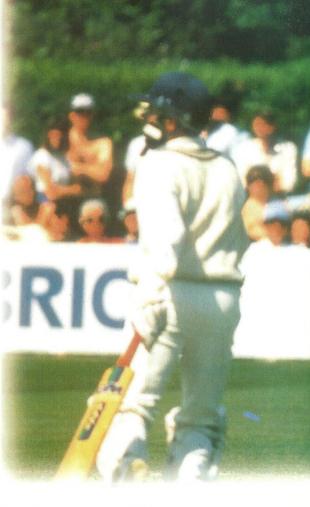
We had gained respectability. We knew we could rise from any situation and the morale was high. What is team spirit? I am often asked. I realised then that it is nothing else but a collective desire to win. Believe me, we had plenty of this when we played Australia. Roger (Binny) played magnificently to take us to the semis. After this we decided at our team meetings only to discuss wins

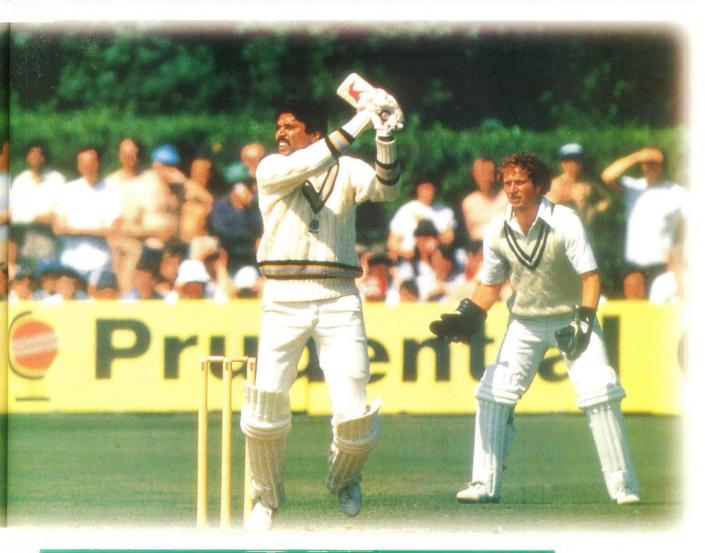
By the time we reached the semis I realised we were in a win-win situation—nobody had expected us to get even that far and we had nothing to lose Even so the pundits didn't give us a fair chance and the media went on to announce an England-West Indies final. But the wicket was in our favour—slow and low. We had decided to let Kirti (Azad) and Mohinder (Amarnath) share the extra 12 overs, bowling six each, and then bring our strike bowlers back. But the wicket helped them so much that there was no way I could change them. It was funny because after every over after their six, both of them would look at me as if to ask whether they should go on Go on, I



What is team spirit? I then realised it is nothing more than a collective desire to win.







INDIA'S 1983 WORLD CUP RECORD (Match by Match)

MATCH 1 vs West Indies at Old Trafford Score Ind 262/8 (60) WI 228 (54.1) MOM Yashpal Sharma INDIA WON BY 34 RUNS

MATCH 2 vs Zimbabwe at Grace Road Score Zim 155 (51.4) Ind 157/5 (37.3) MOM Madan Lal

INDIA WON BY 5 WICKETS

MATCH 3 vs Australia at Trent Bridge Score Aus 320/9 (60) Ind 158 (37.5) MOM Trevor Chappell

AUSTRALIA WON BY 162 RUNS

MATCH 4 vs West Indies at The Oval Score WI 282/9 (60) Ind 216 (53.1) MOM Vivian Richards WEST INDIES WON BY 66 RUNS MATCH 5 vs Zimbabwe at Tunbridge Wells Score Ind 266/8 (60) Zim 235 (57) MOM Kapil Dev

INDIA WON BY 31 RUNS

MATCH 6 vs Australia at Chelmsford Score Ind 247 (55.5) Aus 129 (38.2) MOM Roger Binny INDIA WON BY 118 RUNS

MATCH 7 vs England at Old Trafford Score Eng 213 (60) Ind 217/4 (54.4) MOM Mohinder Amarnath INDIA WON BY 6 WICKETS

MATCH 8 vs West Indies at Lord's Score Ind 183 (60) WI 140 (52) MOM Mohinder Amarnath INDIA WON BY 43 RUNS NOLY PICTURES
REMAIN OF KAPIL'S
175 NOT OUT AGAINST
ZIMBABWE. A BBC
STRIKE ENSURED THE
KNOCK WASN'T TAPED.



Fans asked to carry our bags, just to get into the ground.



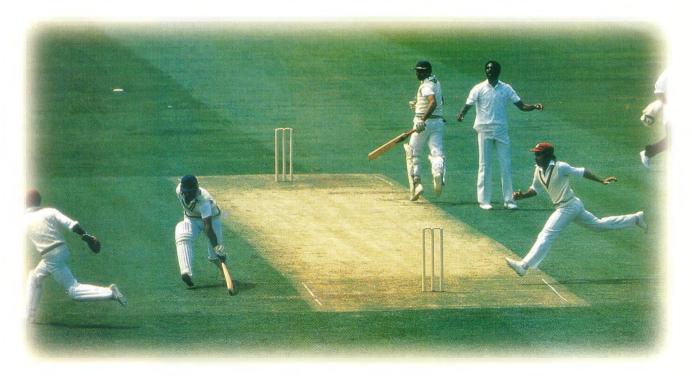
SEVERY BALL IN THE FINAL WAS TENSE, EVERY RUN IMPORTANT FOR INDIA. HERE THE CHEEKY YASHPAL ESCAPES BEING RUN OUT BY BACCHUS.

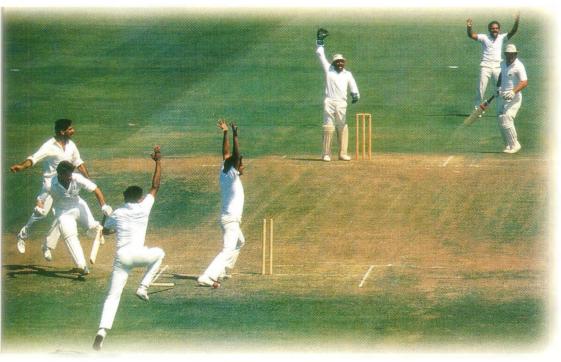
would think to myself and for God's sake keep it up. Ultimately they bowled 24 overs and got four priceless wickets. All I can say is that they bowled within themselves, not trying any heroics. My point here is that if non-regular bowlers can win matches for you what more do you want. I was indeed a fortunate captain.

By the time we played the semis our supporters had increased tremendously, some just happy to carry our bags so that they could get into the ground. At least 2,000 extra people had flown in from India (by the final it was 5,000) and we had to arrange for extra passes and accommodation. The night we won the semis an acquaintance (now a close friend) from Delhi was stranded in Leicester without a room. So we accommodated her in our room even though it was against the rules. So many of the boys felt it was only correct to extend whatever support we could to those who believed in us. Funniest of all was when a friend of ours drove his car into Lord's and when asked for his pass enquired of the steward, "Since when do you verify the passes of cars from 10 Downing Street?" Fortunately the steward had a sense of humour—he apologised profusely, let the man in, and only asked that they give him notice in advance next time.

he match, of course, is history. People feel that the turning point was my catch of Viv Richards but I felt the catch of Clive Lloyd actually sealed their fate. Madan once mentioned in a speech that everyone talks about Kapil's great catch but why is the bowler (himself) forgotten? Absolutely correct Madan. But the match was tense and prior to Viv's dismissal Madan's wife and my wife, surrounded by West Indian families, refused to watch us get slaughtered and returned to the hotel. Weeping, they switched on the television only to find the Windies were six down. They switched off the set immediately in sheer fright and only mustered courage to put it back on when the Windies were eight down. Then they went berserk jumping up and down on the beds and screeching. Both being girls of no light weight, the hotel security rushed to our room thinking there had been a mishap.

Looking back, when I woke up on the morning of June 25 and looked out from the window to see the weather I was grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to play in the final. I didn't





❖ THE ALL-ROUND SKILLS OF THE 1983 TEAM DIDN'T INCLUDE JUST BATTING AND BOWLING BUT FIELDING TOO.

AT A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN THE SEMI FINAL, ALLAN LAMB FOUND THAT OUT THE HARD WAY AND WAS RUN OUT.

sleep that night and had decided that win or lose we were the winners. My team deserved champagne regardless. With that thought I put a bottle in my handbag and quietly left for the stadium. The West Indies in contrast had been sent cases by their supporters and it was ironic to see them after the match in tears and surrounded by all the champagne. We needed the champagne badly but who could ask for it?

e must have broken every rule at Lord's that day. For instance, as actor Shashi Kapoor found out, you couldn't get into the dressing room if you weren't wearing a tie and jacket. We found him a tie but he had begun to gain weight so none of our jackets would fit him. Finally he very nonchalantly slung a small jacket over his shoulders and walked in. Our dressing room was like a fish market. People were swarming in and out and even a confirmed milk-drinker like me couldn't resist the champagne. Our hotel lobby too was overflowing with Indians. The Punjabis from Southhall had come armed with *dholkis* and we danced away into the night. Alcohol flowed (I never did find out who paid for it all) to the extent that the bar ran out of every possible drink. We were later told that every restaurant in Southall opened up their doors and gave away food and *mithai* to all those who passed by. I have kept every piece of memorabilia, every letter, every telegram, every slip of paper that was given to me. The prime minister, the President, ministers, actors, so many people shared our joy. In fact, one of the first telegrams we received was from Amitabh Bachchan.

The love India gave us then and the appreciation we receive even today are amazing. When our Air India flight landed in Mumbai we were just not prepared for the sea of people waiting outside for us. All we could see was faces. And all the way from the Santa Cruz airport to the hotel which was at the other end of Mumbai there were people lining the roads on both sides. It took us four hours to get to the hotel so one can imagine how long people waited for a glimpse of us. More than once the players could be seen wiping away the tears rolling down their faces. We must have done something great in our previous lives to receive such adulation. It was beyond description or expectation.

BEST MOMENT

"Kissing the Cup."

Roger Biony

"Standing on the balcony at Lord's and watching people shout out India's name."

Dilip Vengsarkar

"Watching the last wicket fall. It was like a dream."

Mohinder Amarnath



WHY THEY WON

"We had grit and determination."

Balwinder Sandbu

"Our fighting
spirit. We were
written off but
kept coming back."

Sandeep Patil

"Purely because of team work."

Krish Srikkanth

ASCINSC OF AISTORY

By Ramachandra Guha

bere is only one way to write the history of cricket's World Cups—as a narrative of the preceptors being consistently humiliated by their pupils. While the English invented all the great modern sports—tennis, soccer, boxing, rugby and athletics—it is cricket which they recognise and uphold as their national game. The rules of cricket, and still more its ethos, most fully embodied the self-image of the Victorian elite, its aspirations (and pretension) to set a moral standard to the rest of humanity. Cricket was said to provide a simultaneous training in leadership and teamwork, in playing together and collectively carrying out the captain's behest. The Cambridge historian G.M. Trevelyan went so far as to write that if the French nobles had been in the habit of playing with their peasants, their chateaux would not have been burnt in 1789. Following on that analogy, one might say that the reason the process of decolonisation was so civilised in South Asia and the West Indies was that when our rulers finally left they left us the game of cricket.

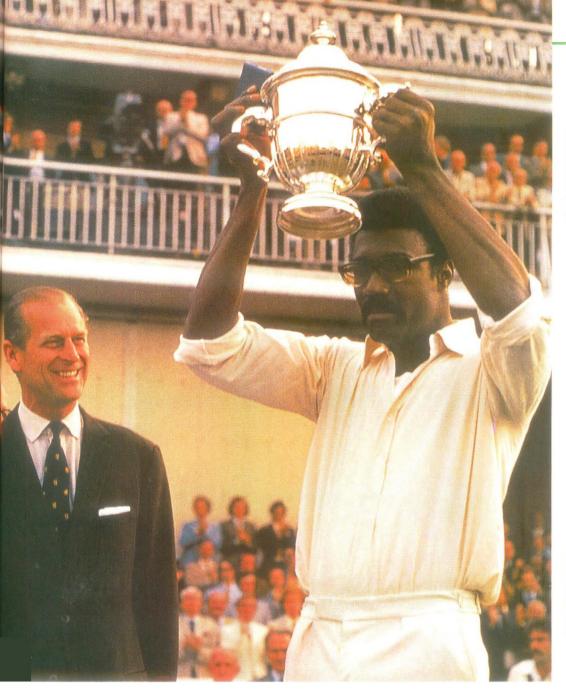


Photographs by PATRICK EAGAR

With cricket, as with the other games they invented, the English have constantly adapted it to changes in technique and fashion. In the 1950s English cricket entered into a steep decline. County matches, once attended by 20,000 and more, were now graced by a dozen pensioners and their dogs. The cricket was dreary, the draw the most common result. Economic growth, meanwhile, had enormously expanded the opportunities to earn and spend money. With an attractive menu of leisure options, tours in the Continent and concerts by the Beatles and such like, why would a consumer spend his pounds on cricket?

English cricket was saved by two near-simultaneous innovations. First, in 1963, the MCC initiated a one-day knockout competition among the counties, funded by Gillette. Five years later foreign professionals were allowed into England. Where it once took years for a *firangi* to qualify for a county, now each county was allowed to recruit up to three foreigners. Soon the English game was enlivened by the likes of Eddie Barlow and Mike Procter from South Africa, Geoff Howarth and Richard Hadlee from New Zealand, Javed Miandad and Zaheer Abbas from Pakistan and Farokh Engineer and Bishen Bedi from India. The dash and colour brought by these men helped bring back the crowds too.

The overseas professionals came in 1968; the next year the John Player League was initiated, a 40-over competition played every Sunday. In 1972 the Benson and Hedges tournament arrived, to definitively underline the dominance of limited overs



1 9 7 5 WORLD CUP (In England)

WINNER: West Indies RUNNER UP: Australia

Score in final (Lord's): WI 291/8 (60) bt Aus 274 (58.4) by 17 runs

Highest total 334/4 (60 overs) Eng v Ind

Lowest total 86 SL v W! Best Batting 171*

Best Batting 1/1* Glenn Turner (NZ) v EA

Best bowling 6/14 Gary Gilmour Aus v Eng

Most runs scored 333 Glenn Turner (NZ)

Most wickets taken 11 Gary Gilmour (Aus)

1 9 7 9 WORLD CUP (in England)

WINNER: West Indies
RUNNER UP England

Score in final (Lord's): WI 286/9 (60) bt Eng 194 (51) by 92 runs

Highest total 293/6 (60 overs) WI v Pak Lowest total 45 Can v Eng Best Batting 138* Viv Richards (WI) v Eng Best bowling 5/21 Alan Hurst (Aus) v Can Most runs scored 253 C.G. Greenidge (WI) Most wickets taken 10 Mike Hendrick (Eng)



cricket over the county championship. A cricketer in England would now play upwards of 25 one-day matches a season. Elsewhere, the longer version of the game continued to rule. In Australia, a knock-out competition had begun in 1969 but it was clearly a subsidiary to the Sheffield Shield. Most other teams came to the World Cup in 1975 without the benefit of one-day tournaments at home.

Since they invented one-day cricket, and played much more of it than anybody else, the English thought they knew best what tactics to adopt. The "conventional wisdom" of one-day cricket could thus be distilled into two axioms: (1) when on the field, bowl to restrict scoring rather than to take wickets; (2) when batting, plan the innings as if you were driving a car, moving steadily from first gear to fourth. There were also two logical corollaries: (3) spin bowlers had no place in this kind of game; (4) nor did opening batsmen who hit the ball in the air or otherwise took risks in the first 25 overs.

The English played the game by logic and reason; other teams by flair and instinct. In the semi-finals of the 1975 World Cup the home side were undone by an Australian bowler who, God forbid, thought his job was to take wickets rather than check the flow of runs. Rather than bowl outswingers eight inches outside the off-stump, as an English seamer would do, Gary Gilmour bowled inswingers

that started just outside off but bent back wickedly late in flight to take middle. Gilmour took six quick wickets one cloudy morning in Leeds and England were out of a World Cup they must have thought they would win. In the final the Australians were defeated in an absorbing match by the West Indies. That final has been much memorialised in print and on videotape, but all previous accounts have forgotten to mention one most significant fact—that the winning side was composed wholly of English county players. Here is that great West Indies team, with their long-term commercial affiliation given in brackets:

1. R.C. Fredericks (Glamorgan) 2. C.G. Greenidge (Hampshire) 3. A.I. Kallicharan (Warwickshire) 4. R.B. Kanhai (Warwickshire) 5. C.H. Lloyd (Lancashire) 6. I.V.A. Richards (Somerset) 7.K.D. Boyce (Essex) 8.B.D. Julien (Kent) 9.D.L. Murray (Warwickshire) 10.V.A. Holder (Worcestershire) 11. A.M.E. Roberts (Hampshire)

rom the beginning, the West Indians had made most abundant use of the employment opportunities in English cricket. They used to play as professionals in the Lancashire League, moving to the county game after 1968. By 1975 Lloyd and his men had massive experience of English conditions, the weather, the wickets, the grounds. Add to this their own remarkable natural skills, and one can easily understand why they won the first two World Cups.

In subsequent tournaments too the *chelas* have continued to outwit the gurus. India, which had been thrashed by England in the first match of the first World Cup, extracted a satisfactory revenge in the semi-final of the 1983 tournament. Several of the Indians who played that match had sound knowledge of English conditions. They had either been there previously on tours or played for a county or in the leagues. To this experience they added a willingness to experiment. If one was to highlight a single moment from that semi-final, it must be Yashpal Sharma's flicked six off Bob Willis, a shot hit by an international novice off an acclaimed fast bowler. An English batsman, in the same situation, would have carefully played the ball down to fine leg for one.

Four years later the two sides met in another World Cup semi-final, played at the Wankhede Stadium.

In that match Graham Gooch departed decisively from English tradition to sweep Maninder Singh and Ravi Shastri out of the match. His century was a triumph of tactical skill, but his team came unstuck in the final. They were defeated by the original pupils, the colonialists to whom they had first taught the game. Allan Border's Australian side was marked by emerging talent in batting and bowling (Steve Waugh and Craig McDermott) and, above all, by brilliant all-round fielding. Their victory in the 1987 World Cup presaged a decade of dominance by Australia in international cricket.

On to 1992, where an eccentric rule that discriminated against teams batting second helped

1 9 8 3 WORLD CUP (in England)

WINNER: India
RUNNER-UP: West Indies

Score in final (Lord's): Ind 183 (54.4) bt WI 140 (52) by 43 runs

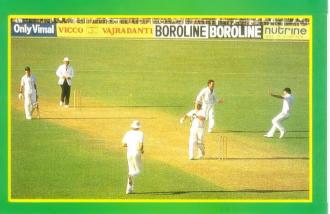
Highest total 338/5 (60 overs) Pak v SL Lowest total 129 Aus v Ind Best Batting 175' Kapil Dev (Ind) v Zim Best bowling 7/51 Winston Davis (WI) v Aus Most runs scored 384 David Gower (Eng) Most wickets taken 18 Roger Binny (Ind)



8 great MOMENTS

- ▶ 1979 final. The last ball of Viv Richards' innings. The miserly Mike Hendrick sends down a leg-stump yorker. Richards gets inside the ball and hits it up and over square leg for six. He thus moves to 138 not out. That shot exemplified, as well as anything else, the staggering self-belief of the first two West Indian championship-winning teams.
- ▶ 1987 final. England look on course for victory, until Allan Border comes on to bowl his highly occasional left-arm slows. Captain to captain, and an over-confident Mike Gatting tries the reverse sweep, depositing the top-edge in the hands of short third man.
- ▶ 1996 final. Arjuna Ranatunga's first ball. Australia have scored 241 for 4, and when the Sri Lankan captain comes in the match is in the balance. Paul Reiffel bowls a fast full ball just outside off stump. Prudence calls for the batsman to leave it alone. For four-fifths of the ball's flight there is no movement of hands or feet. Then comes, at the last minute, a deft but breathtakingly chancy dab down to fine third man for four.
- ▶ 1983 final. B.S. Sandhu, military medium, is bowling to the world's greatest opening batsman. The ball seems to be well outside off stump and Gordon Greenidge thrusts the bat high in the air. The ball ducks in, eludes the extended left pad and knocks back the off stump.
- ▶ 1992 final. Neil Fairbrother and Allan Lamb are in a fine retrieving partnership. Imran Khan calls back Wasim Akram, who switches to round the wicket. His first delivery comes in with the arm and leaves the batsman off the pitch—at a 100 mph. The off-stump is disturbed, and Richie Benaud says on television: "Wasim has cleaned up Lamb and, perhaps, cleaned up England too." The qualifier is swiftly dispensed when, with the next ball, Akram bowls Chris Lewis.
- ▶ 1983 final. Viv Richards is putting an indifferent attack to the sword. But four years have, it seems, slowed the reflexes somewhat. An intended pull is hit high on the bat and soars away beyond midwicket. This is the fielding captain, the only man in his team who can accelerate from a standing start. Kapil runs 20 yards behind his back to make the catch.
- ▶ 1992 final. Gooch top-edges a leg-break from Mushtaq Ahmed and Aquib Javed runs in 20 yards from deep square leg. Aquib is no Kapil Dev, and it is manic desperation rather than athletic ability that powers along those tubby legs. In the end, it is only a full-length dive that gets Aquib to a ball swiftly dropping down on him.
- ▶ 1983 semi-final. Before Kapil Dev arrived Indian wicket-keepers knew little of swing and

seam. Most likely the first keeper to ever have to dive sideways was Syed Kirmani. I can never forget watching Mohinder Amarnath's outswinger being guided down to third man by the elegant David Gower. Or so it seemed, till an extended left glove of a leaping wicket-keeper arrested its progress.





1 9 8 7 WORLD CUP (In India/Pakistan)

WINNER: Australia
RUNNER-UP: England

Score in final (Calcutta): Aus 253/5 (50) bt Eng 246/8 (50) by 7 runs

Highest total 360/4 (50 overs) WI v SL

Lowest total 135 Zim v Ind

Best Batting 181 Viv Richards (WI) v SL

Best bowling 5/44 C. McDermott (Aus) v Pak

Most runs scored 471 Graham Gooch (Eng)

Most wickets taken 18 C. McDermott (Aus)



*FATAL MISTAKE.

GATTING IS OUT REVERSE

SWEEPING BORDER AND

THE 1987 FINAL TILTS

AUSTRALIA'S WAY.

England through to the final. Here they were to play Pakistan, the pupils they generally treat not with condescension but with contempt. The stereotypical English image of the Pakistani is that he is dangerously different, singled out by his colour (brown), his religion (Islam), his language (incomprehensible) and, most of all, by his coming dangerously close, through mass migration, to the very citadel of British civilisation. These stereotypes spill over to the cricket field, where the two countries have, to put it politely, long maintained a state of armed non-aggression. The World Cup final lay in between two bitter cricketing rows—the first in 1987 when Mike Gatting, as captain of a touring side, almost came to blows with umpire Shakoor Rana; the second in the late summer of 1992 when the British press and players accused a victorious Pakistani Test side of ball-tampering.

Pakistan's win in 1992 owed something to luck and a good deal to innovative skill. In particular the bowling of Wasim Akram and the batting of Inzamam-ul-Haq mocked the safety-first approach that the English had sought to standardise as the norm in one-day cricket. Four years later, the teachers suf-

1996 WORLD CUP

WINNER: Sri Lanka RUNNER-UP: Australia

> Score in final (Lahore): Aus 241/7 (50) lost to SL 245/3 (46.2) by 7 wickets

> > Highest total 398/5

(50 overs) SL v Ken Lowest total 93 WI v Ken Best Batting 188* Gary Kirsten (SA) v UAE Best bowling 5/21 Paul Strang (Zim) v Ken Most runs scored 523 Sachin Tendulkar (Ind) Most wickets taken 15

Anil Kumble (Ind)

fered a further humiliation. This time they were put out in the quarter-final of the championship by Sri Lanka. What England thinks of Sri Lankan cricket is manifest by the fact that it graciously grants it one Test every four years. After thrashing England in 1996 Sri Lanka went on to defeat two former World Cup champions, India and Australia. They did it with a combination of attacking batsmanship at the beginning of the

match and artful, wicket-taking spin bowling at the end—thus decisively laying to rest two of the maxims of limited-overs cricket as taught to us by the English.

n six championships England have lost six times—three times in the final, twice in the semi-final and once in the quarter-final. They are, I believe, the only team to have always qualified for the knockout phase of a cup they have not yet won. England have been vanquished in turn by Australia, the West Indies, India, Australia again, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Further blows to their oncesovereign status in the game of cricket have come in the form of the circulation of the championship—once destined only to be played in England, but held since in Asia and Australia. This summer the

tournament returns "home": temporarily, of course, for the next two iterations will be played in South Africa and the West Indies. Even the most principled anti-colonialist must feel desperately sorry for the English. Should we not then back them to win the 1999 World Cup?

Ramachandra Guha is a cricket historian.



1 9 9 2 WORLD CUP (In Australia/NZ)

WINNER: Pakistan **RUNNER-UP:** England

Score in final (Melbourne): Pak 249/6 (50) bt Eng 227 (49.2) by 22 runs

Highest total 313/7 (49.2 overs) SL v Zim

Lowest total 74 Pak v Eng

Best Batting 119* Ramiz Raja (Pak) v NZ

Best bowling 4/11 Meyrick Pringle (SA) v W

Most runs scored 456 Martin Crowe (NZ)

Most wickets taken 18 Wasim Akram (Pak)



The Schedule of PLAY

For the first time the 1999 World Cup is being played over four countries—England, Scotland, Holland and Ireland. There are 12 teams participating who are split into two groups of six: Group A and Group B. The first stage of the tournament is a round-robin, where each team will play the other five teams in their group. Only the top three teams from each group will qualify for the Super Six. Points are awarded in the following fashion. Win: 2 points; Tie or No Result: 1 point; Loss: 0 points.





SUPER SIX

The top three teams of Group A play the top three of Group B.
However, each team carries into the Super Six the points they gained against the other qualifying teams from their group in the round-robin.

June 4 Group A 2nd Vs Group B 2nd Venue: The Oval **Group A 1st Vs Group B 1st** June 5 Venue: Trent Bridge Group A 3rd Vs Group B 3rd June 6 Venue: Headingley June 8 Group A 2nd Vs Group B 1st Venue: **Old Trafford** Group A 3rd Vs Group B 2nd Venue: Lord's June 10 Group A 1st Vs Group B 3rd Edgbaston June 11 Group A 3rd Vs Group B 1st Venue: The Oval June 12 Group A 2nd Vs Group B 3rd Venue: Trent Bridge June 13 Group A 1st Vs Group B 2nd

Venue: Headingley



The top four teams from the Super Six will qualify for the semi-finals



GOFIGURE

29

Balls taken by Arjuna Ranatunga in 1996 to score the fastest fifty.

72

Balls taken by Kapil Dev in 1983 to score the fastest century.

188*

The most runs ever scored in a single innings by Gary Kirsten in 1996.

7

The most sixes ever scored in an innings by Vivian Richards in 1987.

18

The most fours ever scored in an innings by Dennis Amiss in 1975.

RECURS



Youngest to Hit a Century

RICKY PONTING (Aus) 21 yrs 76 days vs West Indies, Jaipur, 1996

Most Appearances

JAVED MIANDAD (Pak) through six World Cups from 1975 to 1996

33

Most Consecutive Appearances

KAPIL DEV (Ind) through four World Cups from 1979 to 1992.

26

Most Wickets

IMRAN KHAN (Pak) from 1975 to 1992 at an average of 19.26.

34

Most Wickets in One World Cup

ROGER BINNY (Ind) in 1983 at an average of 18.66.

18

Best Innings Bowling

WINSTON DAVIS (WI) vs Australia in 1983 at Leeds

7-51

Most Wicket-Keeping Dismissals

SYED KIRMANI (Ind) vs Zimbabwe, Leicester,1983 (all caught). JIMMY ADAMS (WI) vs Kenya, Pune,1996.(4 ct 1st). RASHID LATIF (Pak) vs New Zealand, Lahore,1996 (4 ct 1st). 5

Most (World Cup) Catches

CLIVE LLOYD (WI), KAPIL DEV (India) and DESMOND HAYNES (WI)

12

THINGS YOU SHOULD

EXTRACTS FROM THE 1999 WORLD CUP PLAYING CONDITIONS

11.2 GROUP MATCHES: In the event of teams finishing on equal points in either Group, the right to play in the Super Six stage will be decided in the following order of priority:

- a) The most wins in the Group Matches.
- b) When two teams have both equal points and equal wins, the team which was the winner of the Group Match played between them will be placed in a higher position.
- c) When more than two teams have equal points and equal wins, the team which was the winner of the most number of matches played between those teams will be placed higher.
- d) If still equal, the team with the higher net run-rate in the Group Matches will be placed higher.
- e) If still equal, the team with the higher number of wickets taken per balls bowled in the Group Matches in which results were achieved will be placed in the higher position.
- f) In the event that teams cannot be separated this will be done by drawing lots.

11.3 SUPER SIX MATCHES: The six teams that qualify for the Super Six stage carry forward the points that they have gained against the other teams that have qualified from their respective groups. The points carried forward by each team are added to those they gain in the Super Six Matches to form the Super Six league table. In the event of teams finishing on equal points at the end of the Super Six stage, the right to play in the semi-final will be decided in the following order of priority:

- a) The most wins in all the matches through the competition against the other Super Six qualifiers.
- b) When two teams have both equal points and equal wins, the team which was the winner of the match played between them (in either the Group or Super Six Matches) will be placed higher. When more than two teams have equal points and equal wins, the team which was the winner of the most number of matches played between those teams (in both the Group and Super Six Matches) will be placed in the higher position.
- c) If still equal the team with a higher net run-rate in all matches played against the other Super Six qualifiers (in both the Group and Super Six Matches) will be placed higher.
- d) If still equal the team with the higher number of wickets taken per balls bowled in all matches played against other Super Six qualifiers in which results were achieved will be placed higher.
- e) In the event that teams cannot be separated this will be done by drawing lots.

Most Wins as Captain

CLIVE LLOYD (WI) in 17 matches

D. MENDIS (SL) in 12 matches

5

Most Successive Wins

WEST INDIES from 1975 to 1979

Most Man of the Match Awards (Team)

WEST INDIES and ENGLAND

Most Losses as Captain

Most Successive Losses ZIMBABWE from 1983 to 1992

Most Man of the Match Awards (Individual)

V. RICHARDS (WI). G. GOOCH (Eng).

FIGURE

The most runs scored in World Cups by Javed Miandad, 1975-96.

The most runs scored in one World Cup by S. Tendulkar, 1996.

The most consecutive centuries scored by Mark Waugh in 1996

For 5 in 50 overs. the highest total scored by Sri Lanka against Kenya in 1996

In 40.2 overs, the lowest total scored by Canada against England in 1979.

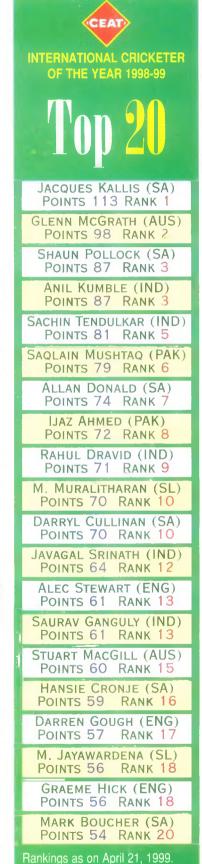
Top	10	BA'	'	1.1.98 to 18.4.99		
PLAYERS	M	Runs	HS	Avg	100	50
M. Bevan	38	1391	101*	81.82	1	13
S. Tendulkar	38	1967	143	59.60	9	7
R. Ponting	35	1518	145	48.96	3	8
Inzamam-ul-Haq	31	1167	116*	44.88	2	8
A. Jadeja	51	1469	116*	44.51	3	8
N. Astle	29	1147	104*	44.11	2	8
J. Kallis	36	1333	113*	43.00	5	6
H. Cronje	36	1106	82	42.53		10
G. Flower	28	1141	140	42.25	3	6
S. Ganguly	50	1899	130*	42.20	5	13
TO .	1.0	D A I		n a	DEDLOD	

Top	10	BU	WLER	1.1	.98 to 18.4	
PLAYERS	Ţ.	Balls	Runs	W	Avg	Best
A. Donald	18	870	564	35	16.11	4-29
G. McGrath	15	782	550	33	16.66	5-40
S. Mushtaq	24	1278	897	45	19.93	4-35
S. Pollock	29	1471	905	42	21.54	6-35
D. Fleming	21	1193	873	40	21.82	4-28
H. Cronje	36	972	679	30	22.63	3-10
D. Gough	22	1224	950	39	24.35	4-28
A. Agarkar	36	1901	1657	68	24.36	4-35
J. Kallis	36	1106	880	36	24.44	5-30
M. Muralitharan	97	1503	1080	43	25.11	5-23

Note: Batsmen are rated on averages. Only batsmen with 25 completed innings qualify. Bowlers are rated on averages. Only bowlers with 30 wickets qualify.

PERIOD 1.1.98 to 18.4.99 Success 13.4 54.1 75.0_{\circ} 58.1 47.4 Rate (%) P: Played **WEST INDIES SOUTH AFRICA AUSTRALIA** INDIA **PAKISTAN** W: Won P: 19 W: 9 P: 36 W: 26 P: 41 W: 26 P: 55 W: 31 P: 37 W: 20 I: Lost L: 10 A: 2 L: 15 A: 0 L: 21 A: 3 L: 17 A: 0 A: 0 A: Abandoned 9.1 32.1% 40.0 35.5 44.3 **NEW ZEALAND SRI LANKA** KENYA ZIMBABWE **ENGLAND** BANGLADESH P: 35 W: 13 P: 37 W: 15 P: 10 W: 4 P: 31 W: 11 P: 28 W: 9 P: 11 W: 1 L: 22 L: 10 A: 0 L: 17 A: 5 A: 0 A: 0 L: 20 A: 0 1:19 A: 0

Note: Teams are ranked on the basis of success percentage. Scotland is not ranked because it hasn't played any one-day internationals so far.



Graphic by JAI



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